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title canvas!

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From KEIR **RADNEDGE** in Munich

Coming up . . . Boli heads the deciding goal past Rossi.

Mars

MARSEILLE brought the Champions' Cup full circle as one presidential ego overtook another in Munich.

Bernard Tapie had not spent anywhere near the £35million which Silvio Berlusconi invested last summer in his own Dream Team concept at Milan. But Tapie, controversial businessman, politician and champagne socialist, had thrown all his personal resources into achieving that ultimate soccer ambition of bringing to France its first European trophy of any shape or form.

Tapie's methods are all his own. Marseille always have been steeped in controversy: even their greatest success was achieved in the shadow of match-fixing allegations concerning a game at Valenciennes.

But who or what institution can bring to heel the man who embraced all the world — Berlusconi, Papin and then his own players — as he circumnavigated the Olympic stadium in his hour of extravagant glory? Two years ago — give him due credit — Tapie came straight out to face the world after the bitterness of shoot-out defeat in Bari. He came straight out again in Munich, but had the grace to recall that the players had made their own contribution to his success. Players, officials. Who deserves the credit? Who takes the credit? Cliche, maybe, but football is all about footballers.

Berlusconi, hugely embarrassed in defeat, might agree but with the proviso that someone has to select the right players for any particular challenge. The flip side of credit in victory is blame in defeat. It is hard to believe that Berlusconi, having invested his millions in a super-squad to conquer Italy, Europe and the world — a squad with twice as many foreigners as regulations could encompass at home or abroad — will not be ruthless in dealing with those who failed him.

As the French fans' Glory, Glory, Hallelujah chorus receded down the autobahn, the body remaining was revealed more and more clearly as that of Milan coach Fabio Capello. He had guided Milan through a record sequence of 58 undefeated League games and victories in all six Champions League ties on the road to Munich but football history may remember him only as the man who got it right for nearly two years and wrong on the night that mattered most.

Milan had the greater class. No doubt. But what of it? Football is a team game and Marseille, on the night, were the superior team. Not only on this night, either. They beat Milan in the quarter-finals two years ago and beat them again in a more recent friendly.

Home-coming Rudi Voller — whose career began in Munich with the 1860 club — kept the great sweeper, Franco Baresi, too busy to indulge in his influential dashes forward; the right-wing technique of Abedi Pele tied down the raiding danger of Paolo Maldini; Didier Deschamps and Franck Sauzee, playing with admirably tight discipline, permitted Milan no space in midfield; and Boli not only scored the decisive goal but eventually drove Milan into the humiliation of substituting even Marco Van Basten.

Five years ago, in this same stadium, Van Basten scored a wonderful goal when Holland won the European Championship. But Milan's flying Dutchmen were flying no longer. Van Basten, struggling after ankle trouble, was replaced six minutes from time; Frank Rijkaard announced with great ill-timing on the eve of the final that he wants to go home; and Ruud Gullit — remember him? — did not reach the bench.

Capello gambled that striker Daniele Massaro would stretch Marseille in a way beyond the capacity of either

Hands up . . . skipper Didier Deschamps with the

CHAMPIONS' CUP FINAL

MARSEILLE 1 *(Boli 43)*
MILAN 0

HT: 1-0. **Att:** 72,300. **Ref:** Rothlisberger (Swi)

Marseille: Barthez — Angloma (Durand 60), Boli, Desailly, Di Meco — Pele, Sauzee, Deschamps, Eydelie — Boksic, Voller (Thomas 78).
Subs not used: Casoni, Ferreri, Olmeta.

Milan: Rossi — Tassotti, Costacurta, Baresi, Maldini — Donadoni (Papin 54), Rijkaard, Albertini, Lentini — Van Basten (Eranio 84), Massaro.
Subs not used: Cudicini, Nava, Evani.

eille the masters

Tapie wins the presidential duel as Milan get it all wrong on the night

Foot up ... Papin makes a controversial challenge as Marseille goalkeeper Barthez takes possession.

Gullit or Papin. But, with the benefit of hindsight, it is impossible to believe Papin would have missed all the early chances which Marseille permitted Massaro.

When Papin made his appearance early in the second half, it was too late. By the time he had caught the pace of the game, the game was up.

Capello will always believe he made the right choice. Marseille, indeed, could have been overrun in the first 20 minutes. Coach Raymond Goethals, displaying an alacrity which belied his 72 years and a lifelong chain of cigarettes, dashed to the touchline to shout orders to a tottering defence. But Marseille had their early chances, too.

Voller ran clear only to see his shot blocked by the increasingly impressive Sebastiano Rossi, and Alen Boksic, chasing the rebound, was bundled off balance and popped his shot wide.

Soon afterwards Boksic was too high on another opening given him by Milan's erratically risky offside trap. Then, all of a sudden, Marseille got to grips with destiny. They cut off the channels to Van Basten and Massaro and Lentini, wide on the Milan left.

The likes of Basile Boli will never be intimidated by physical challenge. This time his response was more than usually creative as his bullet header off Pele's corner provided the only goal of the game.

Boli was vastly disappointed for his old team-mate and friend, Chris Waddle, when Sheffield Wednesday lost the FA Cup Final.

Perhaps Waddle may find some consolation in knowing that Boli had at last succeeded where the two of them — plus Papin — failed in Bari's space-age stadium in 1991. In Munich, a venue quite the aesthetic equal, Boli earned Marseille the fortune they lacked against Red Star.

This year's Final was hardly the classic of style we had hoped. But it had dramatic elements to live in the memory: Marseille winning for France the crown created by their own visionaries nearly 40 years ago; Milan's demonstration that money, alone, is not enough; heroes such as Boli and Voller; scapegoats such as Capello and Massaro.

So Marseille have succeeded Barcelona as European champions, but the Catalans proved just how transitory such glory can be.

Just for that, who can blame Tapie celebrating to the full in his hour of triumph? The Champions' Cup is the only thing the French socialists can claim to have won this year!

MINUTE BY MINUTE

2 ..... Physical determination evident as Costacurta trips Voller and Boli trips Maldini.

5 ..... Marseille fail to clear a free kick. Donadoni switches play right to Van Basten, whose cross is headed inches wide by Massaro.

6 ..... Milan lose possession in midfield and are caught wide open. Voller homes in on goal, Rossi blocks his shot and Boksic, trying to reach the rebound, is bundled off balance and stabs his shot wide.

10 ... Boksic again, this time beating Milan's offside trap but shooting over the bar.

12 ... Milan bite back. Massaro is clear in the box, delays far too long and hands over the opportunity to Van Basten, whose shot is blocked.

17 ... Massaro now in space at an angle on the left. His shot, aimed at a gap between goalkeeper and near post, is palmed to safety by Barthez.

18 ... Marseille coach Goethals is led back to the bench after hurrying out to the touchline to shout tactical directions.

29 ... Massaro breaks through into penalty box space. Once more his shot is blocked.

38 ... Lentini is shown the yellow card for tripping Pele.

43 ... Marseille force a corner on the right. Pele swings it away to the near post and ***BOLI*** storms through to head into the net.

Half-time: Marseille 1, Milan 0.

53 ... A yellow card for Boli after a late tackle on Van Basten.

54 ... Milan send on Papin as substitute for the ineffective Donadoni.

58 ... Papin is soon in trouble with the Marseille defenders for a foot-up challenge on Barthez after a corner from Albertini.

60 ... Durand replaces the injured Angloma.

69 ... Barthez is shown the yellow card for wasting time over a free kick.

77 ... Papin receives his first half-chance but hooks an angled cross just wide of Barthez's right-hand post.

78 ... Thomas goes on as sub for Voller.

83 ... Milan's last chance. Van Basten chips in from the left but Massaro just fails to connect.

84 ... Van Basten, disappointed and clearly reluctant, is replaced by Eranio.

Full-time: **Marseille 1, Milan 0.**

WHAT THEY SAID

Raymond Goethals
(Marseille coach):
It was a victory for our tactics. After the problems we had in the opening stages we were better organised and had a clearer idea of our tasks. I'm delighted for M. Tapie. There's been a lot of misunderstanding about the way he works. Tapie has great ambitions, but has to be hands-on in every project he undertakes. I am the coach: I have my specific role in the club. Tapie is president. He believes he has a role to play in everything.

Fabio Capello
(Milan coach):
We lost it in the first half. We started very well and made a lot of chances but, for one reason or another, we did not take advantage. There was nothing more to it than that. Marseille scored at a very important moment, sagainst the run of play. In the second half the game was always going away from us. But we did not have any luck. Van Basten was substituted because he was injured. His ankle was playing up.

THE KEIR RADNEDGE

COMMENTARY FROM

TOKYO

AS we told you . . .

In the May edition I pointed out in this column the appalling state of affairs regarding safety and security in the legendary Wankdorf stadium in Bern. Following our lead, FIFA also were amazed at the state of affairs at the Switzerland v Italy World Cup tie, and accordingly the ground has now been shut to international football on FIFA's orders. But remember, you read of it here first.

Look what's happening on FIFA's doorstep

SWITZERLAND is home to FIFA, to UEFA and to a vast number of men and women appointed to administer all soccer's rules and regulations.

But Sepp Blatter, FIFA's Swiss of executive, might be advised a world game police itself two while he takes a lor back yard.

led the World Cu

JAPAN STAKES A

I HAVE seen the future and it works.

No apologies, either, for "lifting" a line from Lincoln Steffen's comment about the achievements he supposed he found after the Russian Revolution.

In writing about Japan it is, after all, utterly appropriate to copy and adapt for one's own purpose. This is what the Japanese have done commercially and industrially. This is what they are now doing with football.

Japan is the future of football. And if you think that is fanciful nonsense, just consider the origins of many of the cars out there in your street and much of the electrical paraphernalia in your own home.

I write this after a week having my eyes opened to what one might call the Japan Project: a multi-layered programme of single-minded ambitious development in which the launch of professional soccer is entwined with a bid to host the 2002 World Cup finals.

And if Japan can hardly be considered a market leader when it comes to professional football, it is many lengths clear of the Chinese and Korean opposition in the race towards 2002.

Few readers of the sports press — and none of this magazine — can have been oblivious to the launch of the J.League. What you might not have realised is the scale of the enterprise and the depth of research undertaken to ensure its long-term success.

I have no doubt, football being a most deliciously illogical business, that the Japan Project will risk coming apart at the seams from time to time.

A startling 20 years already has been lost, according to Dettmar Cramer, the German master coach possessing unrivalled knowledge of Japanese football.

Pro baseball can be guaranteed to fight hard to repel the invader; Tokyo, the capital no less, presents a double dilemma with no J.League club to call its own and a moribund National Stadium; an

FIFA

PENALTIES STAY FOR US '94

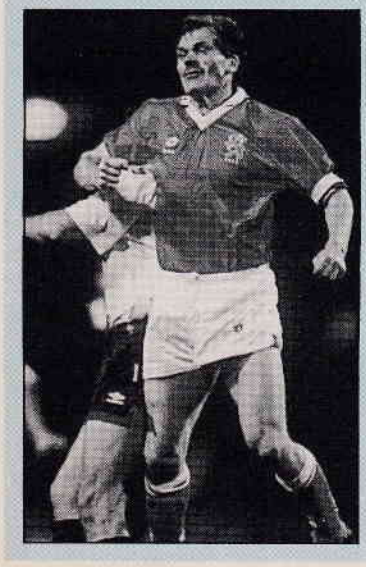
PENALTY shoot-outs will remain the decisive last resort at next year's World Cup finals in the United States.

The sudden-death experiment at the World Youth Cup finals in Australia was inconclusive, according to FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni, in Tokyo for the draw for the World Under-17 Cup.

Tognoni said: "Only two games went to extra time and one of those went on to penalties. We need more experience of sudden-death in another championship, before we could think about whether to use it one day at a World Cup."

Other points . . .

● FIFA hope to crack down on illegal use of the elbow. Paul Gascoigne's cheekbone fracture, after being felled in this way by Holland captain Jan Wouters at Wembley (below), was merely another example of a trend in surreptitious, intimidatory violence causing widespread concern. FIFA's Guido Tognoni said: "We are aware of this increasing problem. We have action in mind but need responses from the various FAs before we can go public."



● FIFA are considering allowing their disciplinary committee to use video evidence more widely than in only the final stages of tournaments, as now.

● FIFA have asked England's FA to undertake a study into "passive offside" with a view to resolving an increasingly controversial issue.

WIND OF CHANGE IS BLOWING THROUGH ASIA

EUROPEAN fans, brought up within a tightly-knit patchwork of inter-dependent, sometimes inter-antagonistic, states, tend to find Asian football beyond comprehension.

So many countries, so many hugely varied cultures, politics and religious influences. Names of equal complexity: nothing which trips off the western tongue as conveniently as Van Basten or Vialli.

But why should Asia be easy? This is a geographic mass which spreads across almost one half the world's surface. Some 11,000 miles from Syria's Mediterranean coast to the Gulf of Anadyr where Siberia reaches the Bering Sea.

If watching from a cosy, long distance is confusing, how much more of a challenge is running the show?

Imagine a room full of the continent's officials from Gulf state Arabs to Indians, Malays and Japanese and a myriad more peoples in between.

One man, amid all of this, can see the overall picture and, thus, strive to keep juggling all its unique problems without ever dropping one. His name is Peter Velappan and he is secretary of the Asian Confederation, based in Kuala Lumpur.

Eight months of the year he spends travelling his empire, understanding better than anyone the intimidatory problems of watch-whirling time zones, contradictory climates and conflicting competitive seasons. Better than anyone he has "hands-on" understanding of the varying standards of infrastructure which divide Asian football into three "divisions."

Velappan (above) says: "In the top echelon for world and Olympic football we have the likes of Japan, South Korea, North Korea and China in the Far East; Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia then the UAE and Qatar from the Middle East.

"In the next section we have those countries who will be up with the first group in a few years — countries such as Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and India. In the third group are those countries who, for social, political and economic reasons, will take years to catch up."

The problem is not necessarily financial. There's plenty of money for football in Asia, whether for national self-promotion in funding the national team or in the full and part-time leagues.

As Velappan says: "African footballers want to go to Europe to play for financial reasons. There is no real money in Africa. But players can make a good living from football in many parts of Asia.

"They have no need to go to Europe. They can live very comfortably staying at home and being stars in their own country where they might struggle in Europe because of the different disciplinary demands, different culture, and so on."

The real problem, out on the pitch, is coaching. Velappan says: "Brazilian coaches have worked very successfully in the Middle East.

"The Brazilian style of play adapts very well in Asia. So we are launching a major programme later this year, through the Asian confederation, bringing out 40 coaches to work with our clubs for a month and then again next spring. It's a wonderful opportunity for our members."

Just about every Asian

absence of coaching knowhow at youth level causes major concern; so does the absence of green space for soccer pitches; and the culture of respect which inhibits the younger players from outstripping the veterans and inhibits both coaches and referees from imposing the varied disciplines essential to the ultimate team game.

Instilling the philosophy of sporting equality may be served, indirectly, by the financial contribution expected of all registered players. From Gary Lineker and Zico down to every 12-year-old schoolboy, each player must pay a levy of 300 Yen per year towards the 2002 World Cup fund-raising effort.

That translates as £1.75 to any Englishman in Tokyo or, depending on where you dine in town, as half or a third of a cup of coffee.

Financially, that's nothing in the land of the rising price. Its significance is symbolic. But even breaking down the traditional barrier of respect is not the most shattering concept being imposed on the Japanese.

Way out in front is the very club structure itself: not deserving of a second thought in the west but a revolutionary concept for a society underpinned by big company control over every aspect of daily life including, until the J.League, sport.

The presence of seen-better-days veterans such as Zico, Lineker and Pierre Littbarski plus the fact that the top Japanese players will be averaging more than £100,000 a year suggests Japan is copying merely the old North American Soccer League and will, ultimately, imitate its suicide.

But the Japanese are restricting the number of imports so their own stars can shine through; all the J.League clubs have had to organise age level youth sections right down to the 12-year-olds; and the sponsor companies know they will lose far more than they will gain before the turn of the century.

We could have been writing this 20 years ago. In 1968, Cramer guided Japan's national team to third place in the Olympics.

He told me: "The very next morning we sat down with all the players and officials and vowed we would not let it go. We agreed all the things which had to be done, when I went back to my other coaching duties for FIFA I wrote them reminders, regularly.

"But in 1969, when I came back for the World Cup qualifiers . . . nothing had been done. Japan was the only Asian entrant but lost to Israel who went to the finals. Just think where Japan might be now if, after the Mexico Olympics, we had gone to the World Cup finals. What it would have done for the game in Japan! The momentum was lost and 20 years with it."

Those helping regain it include Pele and Bobby Charlton, formally enlisted as promotional advisers to the 2002 bid committee.

At a sparkling reception they commanded more worshipful admiration than the Crown Prince. Both sported red and white rosettes — denoting guests of honour. Such is the unique Japanese style which Charlton considers ideal for World Cup hosts in the 21st century. He says: "It may seem strange to think of a World Cup in Japan. But considering the US for next year took a lot of adjusting for many people. The World Cup is so big now, so complex, that it's not a country's team which counts as much as a country's technology.

"The Japanese have always been one step ahead of everyone else in that field and they're one step ahead of everyone else when it comes to the 2002 World Cup as well."

CLAIM FOR TOMORROW'S WORLD

country, says Velappan, is "a football country." He adds: "You never have to worry about filling the stadia. The football culture is everywhere. That's why some countries benefit from royal patronage and government support — because of the importance of football both for a country domestically and internationally.

"Even when there is political or civil unrest, football carries on. We have an Asian Champions' Cup and Cup-winners' Cup; our youth teams do very well at world level. Some are far stronger than the European and South American age level teams. At the 1988 Olympics one of the very best matches was the one between South Korea and Sweden in the first round. The Swedes were very happy to escape with a draw."

Currently Asia has 36 members with five former Soviet republics knocking on the door — Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kirghistan, Tadzhikistan and Turkmenistan. But they must wait.

Velappan says: "FIFA asked us to take them into our sphere but I have been to see the situation and it is very, very difficult.

"All five have economic problems; political problems; communications problems — no fax, for instance, which is essential nowadays. Nor do they have any direct or convenient air connections."

FIFA must shortly decide how to integrate the fraught five. Velappan thinks some interim associate membership may be appropriate so they can develop infrastructure as well as domestic and mutual competition before joining the mainstream.

Asian potential is evident in the Havelange-encouraged pursuit of World Cup 2002. Japan have seized an impressive lead with China sidetracked by Beijing's 2000 Olympic bid and Korean interest frozen by political uncertainty.

A further strengthening of football's developing world could follow before very long. Next year's FIFA Congress must resolve the executive committee position originally guaranteed in perpetuity to the Soviet Union on its accession in 1946.

As Viacheslav Koloskov, current incumbent and FIFA vice-president, told me: "In the interim, after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, FIFA decided that Russia should take up the vice-presidency.

"But next year a permanent arrangement must be made. Perhaps the other confederations will have views on this."

The "other confederations," notably Africa and Asia, *DO* have views. They want to reduce what they consider a detrimental European/Latin American bias within FIFA. They have the votes to do it.

Given the confusion within African football, Asia has the chance to become a major player on football's political stage. A wind of change is blowing from the east.

JUST ABOUT EVERY ASIAN COUNTRY, SAYS VELAPPAN, IS 'A FOOTBALL COUNTRY'

PAY

YEN FOR SUCCESS

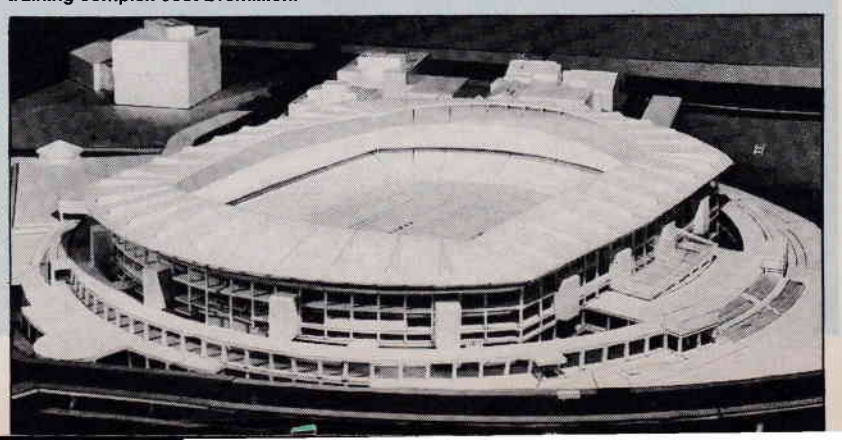
DO NOT expect Japanese players to rush to play in Europe. They are being paid remarkably well, considering the J.League's infancy.

Zico and Gary Lineker have both been reported as recipients of two-year, £1.8million contracts with prospects of raking in another £4million each from personal advertising deals.

But their Japanese team-mates will not lose any sleep over comparative earnings. Top internationals such as Kazu Miura are on £600,000 a season, the same as German Pierre Littbarski at JEF United. Miura's lower-profile Japan team-mates will average £100,000 each (around £30,000 a year below the average for a local baseball pro).

The satellite (reserve) squad are on £25,000 a man, about £5,000 a year less than the average family's income. But then, time is on their side.

- THE winning club in each of the two halves of the season will earn £300,000, runners-up £120,000, third-placed club £60,000. The J.League champions will earn an extra £60,000, the runners-up £20,000. The Most Valuable Player will receive £12,000, top scorer £6,000, best 11 players £6,000 each, rookie of the year (aren't they all?) £3,000 and the top manager £3,000.
- **TELEVISION will screen 180 matches a season, paying around £65,000 per game and a total £4million. This is split equally among the 10 clubs.**
- THE cheapest (child's) ticket costs £6, the average price is £15 and top price at the Opening Match was £100 per seat — with tickets selling at £300, three times face value, on the black market.
- **CLUB merchandise this year is expected to raise £66million, with a royalty fee of three per cent (£2.2million) going to the J.League to be split among the 10 clubs.**
- THE World Cup 2002 Bid Committee organised a £40million budget to finance its activities from 1990 to 1996. Half was paid by local government, half raised from within the game. Football's contribution is 25 per cent from sponsors and campaign supporters and 25 per cent through levies: 100 yen (60p) per spectator per match; 300 yen (£1.80) per player per year; and 10,000 yen (£60) per official per year (Japan has 600,000 registered players and 500 paid officials).
- **THE new stadium planned for Yokohama (below), south of Tokyo, should be completed in 1997 at a cost of £350million . . . the 15,000-capacity Kashima stadium was built in 13 months at a cost of £50million. Antlers' rent is 10 per cent of ticket revenue. The club's training complex cost £13million.**



J.LEAGUE
BY KEIR RADNEDGE

SWITCHING ON TO HISTORY

YOU COULD almost reach out and touch the electric current of excitement in the National Stadium on a day of perhaps historic sporting importance.

The night the J.League first lit up Japan was one for the memory: the moment western sport fused with eastern culture in an explosion of laser-led electronic pyrotechnics.

Nice one, Everton . . . the Brazilian midfielder scores the equaliser for Marinos.

Detail, mere detail, was the result of the Opening Match in which Yokohama Marinos recovered with marvellously controlled aggression to beat Yomiuri Verdy 2-1 after trailing 1-0 at the interval; it was Verdy's 17th successive failure to sink their old rivals.

Far, far more significant was the manner in which the marketing Pied Pipers of the J.League hit their target. Tomorrow's football fanatics in Japan should be the youth of today. And a full house, 62,000, of them responded, first to be transfixed by the electronic patterns of lights and music and then enraptured by dramatic football theatre.

The J.League made such a marvellous start — right from a ceremony which would not so much have graced but electrified a World Cup — that it would require incompetence on a remarkable scale for the momentum to be lost. Outside the stadium the souvenir shops did a roaring trade; inside the young men and a high proportion of young women set off their klaxons, waved their flags and banners and "lived" the football with a positive delight which contrasted sharply with today's western supporter cynics.

Players attempting individual exploits were applauded, even in failure. Mistakes were not jeered but, in Japanese style, went unremarked. When Verdy or Marinos were pushed back their fans, rather than subside, raised their voices to encourage resistance.

The mix of South American technique and Japanese commitment proved attractive after the big-night nerves had been conquered. That took most of the first half.

Both teams were clearly flustered by the pressure of the occasion and both keepers, were nervous and indecisive.

Matsunaga, Japan's first choice, flapped wimpishly at a string of early crosses, encouraging Verdy's Dutchman, Hennie Meijer, to crack home a superb J.League opening goal from 22 yards.

Verdy were the better team in the first half with Brazilian-born Ruy Ramos running midfield. Only rarely did midfielders Mizunuma and Kimura and Argentines Ramon Diaz and David Bisconti set Verdy's fans squealing in fright.

At half-time Verdy surprisingly brought on Japan winger Kitazawa, fit again after injury, in place of centre forward Takeda. Kitazawa played on the right wing, with Meijer abandoning his link position in "the hole" to go forward. The result was disastrous: Ramos no longer had Meijer to return his close passes, Marinos seized the initiative in storming fashion and Verdy, by the time they had sorted themselves out, were 2-1 down.

Brazilian midfielder Everton equalised after being left unmarked at a corner. He stepped inside the penalty box and lifted an exquisitely-judged "floater" into the far corner.

Then Mizunuma burst through Kikuchi blocked his shot but the ball rebounded off defender Pereira, hit the keeper again and fell neatly for Diaz to score. He also had scored the winning goal on his only previous appearance in Japan's National Stadium: when Argentina won the World Youth Cup in 1979.

Marinos, a bunch of straggling individuals in the first half, tightened up their tactical act highly effectively, and Verdy's Miura tried too hard to win the match single-handed.

Hopefully he will be all the better for this experience. He is, undoubtedly, Japan's first "real" soccer superstar, just waiting to happen.

Yomiuri Verdy:
Kikuchi — Nakamura, Pereira, Katoh (Abe 79), Hashiratani, Tsunami, Meijer, Hanssem Takeda (Kitazawa 46), Ramos, [illegible] Miura.

Yokohama [illegible] Marinos:
Matsunaga — Hirakawa, Katsuya, Ihara, Koizumi, Noda, Everton, Mizunuma, Diaz, Kimura, Bisconti.

Referee: S Obata

J.LEAGUE

TOP MAN

SABURO KAWABUCHI talks numbers the way he and his colleagues on the J.League board expect Gary Lineker to score goals.

WE'RE IN IT FOR FOOTBALL NOT THE MONEY, SAYS J.LEAGUE SHOGUN

Kawabuchi has been the busiest man in Tokyo, fronting the project to politicians, potential sponsors and the media. He talks with a missionary zeal and visionary confidence as breathtaking as the sums of money tumbling from his presidential statements and answers.

Yet Kawabuchi refutes, emphatically, any suggestion that the J.League has been founded to make money. This, he says, is the philosophical difference between the J.League and the North American Soccer League, the best-hyped flop in soccer history.

But his words induced a sense of *deja vu* as he expounded his J.League gospel. Kawabuchi says: "We have been fortunate. When we started the project we were in the middle of the bubble economy.

"So, many companies and local authorities were happy to commit themselves. Looking at the curent economic climate, if we hadn't started work in 1991 we could not have launched the professional league we have now.

"Then, we had a warm-up tournament, the Yamazaki-Nabisco Cup, last year. To our surprise, 10 of the 48 games were sold out in advance. That had never happened before. And attendances were seven times what they had been — up from 1,500 to 11,000 per match."

This leap in interest, whether firm or fantasy, provided precisely the justification Kawabuchi and Co. had wanted to justify launching the J.League economy. Kawabuchi says: "The average expenditure of each club this year is $13million. This is a little higher than projected because players' salaries are higher than we expected.

Busy one, Saburo . . . he talks in big numbers.

"But each club's income will average $9million — made up of $5million from ticket sales, £500,000 as a share of TV income, £2million as a share of overall sponsorship and $1.5million from their own advertising — shirts adverts and so on.

"This means we expect each club to start with a loss of $4million on the first years. We do not expect to break even for five years."

Kawabuchi is not fazed by a projected loss of a staggering £200million over the first five years.

For one thing, he expects the sponsors to write off the sums against tax through their advertising accounts.

Secondly, he expects ticket revenue to increase as stadia are upgraded ahead of 2002. But crowds do not increase pro rata with stadia capacities. J.League gates will swell only as the quality of the product, the soccer, improves.

Kawabuchi believes controlled use of foreign players is crucial. The rules permit five under contract and three on the pitch. Kawabuchi says: "We need the big foreign names now to promote the game and raise standards. But within three years we should produce our own Japanese stars as the kids switch over from baseball. By 2002 we can be in the top level in the world."

Kawabuchi is a former centre-back in the Japanese national team. He credits inspiration for his campaign to revolutionise Japanese soccer to a visit he made to West Germany with the national squad in the 1960s.

He says: "We visited a wonderful sports complex in Duisburg. I didn't think we could attain such facilities in 100 years. So I made

J. League mascot

ZICO,

born Artur Antunes Coimbra, is the finest and most famous footballer to grace Japanese soccer.

At 40, back on the pitch after a spell as Brazilian Minister of Sport, he opened his J.League account with a hat-trick for Kashima Antlers against Grampus Eight.

Then Zico, Brazil's World Cup star of 1978, 1982 and 1986, explained why he made a new start way out east.

THIS IS THE FOOTBALL OF THE 21ST CENTURY, SAYS ZICO

"I GAVE up playing in Brazil because I didn't enjoy my football there any more. I could have played on, like Junior. But there are so many problems with Brazilian football: the organisation, the facilities, the politics.

Really, the politicians are the worst thing about Brazilian football. They go into it for the high profile but they don't work together for the good of the overall game. If one politician has the power at one club he won't lift a finger to do something for the club in the next street or across the city.

But Japan is different. Japan has given me back my motivation to play, my enjoyment of the beautiful game. So I will play here as long as I can help them develop soccer. I have seen football all over the world but I can tell you this: Japan, right now, is the best country in the world in which to play football.

The facilities are wonderful and the organisation and administration is first class. These are serious people. When they say they want to stage the World Cup in 2002 they are serious about it. And so many people love soccer.

Outsiders think it's like the United States with the new pro ieague and all the rest. But soccer will be really big here it a way it never can be in the US. Japan will be the next surprise in international football over the next five to 10 years, like Cameroon at the last World Cup. They have a lot of support here for the game, they love football and are doing a very good job.

I'm here to teach them. That's all. The Japanese players are like the Japanese people, Japanese industry: they copy so quickly. When I came here for the first time, more than 10 years ago with Flamengo for the World Club Cup (they beat Liverpool 3-0) I had to teach the kids how to control the ball. Now I look around and the kids have the basics. They are ready for the next step.

The most important thing is that they find good coaches to teach them the right habits. Believe me: Japan is the football country of the 21st century."

it my ambition to help achieve such facilities in Japan in my lifetime. In Germany anyone can go to a club to play their sport, whatever it is. We have had nothing comparable in Japan. Everything here has been dominated by the big companies, including sport."

All the part-time clubs in the old Japanese Soccer League were owned and run by the big companies. The players were company employees and, as such, only part-timers at best.

Kawabuchi says: "It was clear soccer was not making progress from that base. We realised we must approach the problem by improving the quality of the Japanese national team. But to do that we had to introduce new structures or there was no hope.

"The old Japanese league has been in existence for 27 years. The average attendance was 5,000 but probably only 1,500 each match were paying to watch. The rest were company employees who could watch free of charge. The reason was that everything was being done not in the best interests of football but in the best interests of the companies.

"This is the most difficult thing for a foreigner to understand. There is nothing anywhere else in the world to compare with this company system. But staying within that system meant there was no hope of developing the professional football we needed."

So Kawabuchi and his supporters inside and outside the JFA set their minds on a revolution. They would introduce t[illegible] familiar throughout the rest of the world but a revo[illegible] was incredible. concept in Japan.

In preparing the ground Kawabuchi and Co. stud[illegible] club structures in Malaysia, England, Germany, Ita[illegible]e'd have seen countries. They came home with a blueprint for su[illegible]liga, our 3-1

They sought approaches from all those clubs wh[illegible]sed the turn independent and they set stringent rules. Each [illegible] contain an ownership mix involving the local author[illegible] companies only involved as private sponsors; an a[illegible]ce in the 1982 with a minimum capacity of 15,000; first-team and [illegible] squads of at least 18 players each; youth teams d[illegible] age; full commercial (marketing and merchandising[illegible]

Already, Kawabuchi believes the upgrading of Ja[illegible]neg the has born fruit. He cites the World Cup first round s[illegible] year's Asian Cup triumph as straws in a warm and [illegible]

At the very least, confidence based on such a th[illegible] researched subject is impressive.

Slowly, modestly, tantalisingly, he allows you a brief glimpse into the understated breadth of his power. Murata is vice-president of the Football Association of Japan, a member of the J.League managing board and secretary-general of the World Cup 2002 Bid Committee.

He also dispels the image of the typical Japanese executive as too serious being successful to admit the humour of life. Justifying the bid to host the 2002 World Cup, he says: "We have never qualified for the finals. Maybe this is the easiest way."

Then it's off into the history lesson on a theme by an Englishman. FIFA President Sir Stanley Rous planted the first seeds when, after the 1964 Sapporo Olympic Games, he suggested to his Japanese hosts that they might consider, one day, staging the World Cup.

Twenty years later Murata responded to that challenge. Precisely how he responded demonstrates not only Japan's commitment but an exemplary project calendar for any country — or any individual — who wants to know how a World Cup bid is created from scratch.

October 1986: Murata told members of the JFA's 47 local

But nobody said Yes either."

Murata, undaunted, asked local FAs to reply, one way or the other, before the end of the year. All said yes.

1989: After organising a study group, Murata went stadia-trekking in England (Old Trafford, Loftus Road, Wembley), Holland (Eindhoven), Germany (Bochum) and Italy (Milan, Turin, Genoa and Rome). He also stopped off in Zurich to tell FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter what he was up to. Murata recalls: "He said it seemed quite a good idea, because between 30 to 40 per cent of the World Cup's sponsorship was from Japan."

1990: Japan issued its first promotional information leaflets at the FIFA Congress and, back in Tokyo, organised a promotional budget and set up a project office.

1992: The Bid Committee invited the 20 regional prefectures which had expressed interest to confirm their commitment to the project; 15 did so.

Winter/Spring 1993: The committee included all 15 sites in the provisional proposal for 2002; set a May deadline for stadia plans; took advertising space at selected World Cup ties (including Turkey v England); secured a place on the international map by reaching the final Asian

resolving uncertainty over the Final venue.

The problem is obvious. Look at the list of venues. Now look for Tokyo. Nowhere in sight — and for much the same reason that the capital of Japan, with its 24 million population, does not figure in the J.League.

All the other stadia are owned, or planned, by local authorities. The National Stadium is NOT owned by Tokyo itself but by the state.

It is also, despite a 62,000 capacity, inadequate for the demands of a World Cup Final. Logically, Tokyo council does not want to spend its own money building a 100,000-capacity replacement for a stadium which it does not own in the first place.

National government, meanwhile, has put all available recreational capital into developing Nagano for the forthcoming Winter Olympics.

The result: a financial and political impasse and an obvious reason why Japanese football needs the J.League to succeed.

If soccer builds up enough momentum, national and local government will be left no option but to build a new stadium for Tokyo.

That is the one remaining piece needed to complete Japan's World Cup jigsaw.

J.LEAGUE
BY KEIR RADNEDGE

SUDDEN DEATH MAY BE ONLY TEMPORARY

NOTHING in the J.League has aroused such controversy as the death of the draw.

Sudden death followed, if necessary, by penalties is the preferred solution. And the competitive system does not differentiate in value: one win equals one point, however it is achieved.

Saburo Kawabuchi, president of J.League, is an aggressive advocate of all-or-nothing football. When the Japanese sought permissiom to scrap draws, FIFA said No. Kawabuchi insisted and FIFA caved in on condition it be considered only a one-season experiment with a report submitted for FIFA consideration at the year's end.

Kawabuchi justifies this competitive anomaly on the grounds that Japanese sports fans must have decisive action — and winners. He says: "When the J.League clubs started with the Nabisco Cup last year, solving this problem was our big challenge. The new back-pass rule was a big help with goal-scoring on the one hand and FIFA's agreement for us to use sudden-death is another.

"We needed this help because of the competition from pro baseball and because our questionnaires proved many fans wanted such a system. We know this may be hard for players and coaches to accept. But it's an important part of our campaign to achieve success by putting the supporter's interests first, especially in this first season."

FIFA's Guido Tognoni acquiesed, in public at least, with good grace. The governing body considers a draw as much a part of soccer as winning and losing. It feared the Japanese might be heading down the same road which ultimately halted the NASL.

So why, Tognoni was asked at a Tokyo press conference, did you change your mind?

"Well," he said equably, "FIFA, as you know, is a flexible organisation."

FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF JAPAN/ J.LEAGUE

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Cable: SOCCERJAPAN TOKYO.
Founded: 1921.
Joined FIFA: 1929.
Joined AFC: 1954.
National stadium: National Stadium, Tokyo.
Capacity: 62,000.
National colours —
Home: blue shirts, white shorts, blue socks.
Away: white shirts, blue shorts, white socks.

RESULTS

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 16

WEEKEND

KASHIMA ANTLERS 5 (Zico 27, 31, 63, Alcindo 59, 65)
GRAMPUS EIGHT 0. Att: 10,898.

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 3 (Angelo 9, Fernando 57, Maeda 59)
SHIMIZU S-PULSE 2 (Edu 42, Toninho 89). Att: 14,126.

GAMBA OSAKA 1 (Wada 29)
URAWA RED DIAMONDS 0. Att: 12,000.

HIROSHIMA SANFRECCE 2 (Kazama 1, Kojima 82)
JEF UNITED 1 (Rehak 67). Att: 11,875.

YOMIURI VERDY 1 (Meijer 19)
YOKOHAMA MARINOS 2 (Everton 48, Diaz 59). Att: 62,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 23

MIDWEEK

KASHIMA ANTLERS 3 (Alcindo 23, Carlos 35, Hasegawa 79)
YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 2 (Maeda 53, Edu 84). Att: 9,403.

Making the draw . . . Koloskov, Tognoni, Komine and Pele.

UNDER-17

KICK-IN LOOKS LIKE BEING KICKED OUT

THE KICK-IN experiment looks doomed to failure when it comes under the international microscope at the World Under-17 Cup in Japan in August and September.

Europe has been generally sceptical of the idea since FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter espoused the experiment.

Concern centres, of course, on the likely encouragement this will provide the up-and-under, "Route One" adherents.

At the draw, in Tokyo two days before the J.League launch, Pele was introduced as an advocate of the kick-in and a chaotic ten minutes ensued.

Pele said he backed the kick-in because it would speed up the game. I asked for clarification of what he meant, because many believe that English football is too fast already.

Pele then explained that he thought players should have the option of using either the traditional throw-in or a drop-kick. Far from backing the forthcoming trials, he thought that the experimental rule — involving placing the ball on the touchline and forcing opposition players back nine metres — would slow the game.

If that was not confusing enough, Japan were not enamoured with the way the draw itself — expertly conducted by Miguel Galan, competitions boss and crown prince of FIFA's goldfish bowls — presented them with the toughest group.

Japan must face Ghana, Italy and Mexico. And the irony is, Japan, as hosts, were the only seeded team.

Youth boss Tadatoshi Komine said: "At this stage there would have been no easy opponents."

Few other Japanese observers were as sanguine. Indeed, the Opening Match on August 21, hosts Japan against defending title-holders Ghana, would be worthy of the Final, on September 4.

U 17
JAPAN '93
FIFA/JVC CUP

Group A *(Tokyo, Kobe)*: Japan, Ghana (holders), Italy, Mexico.

Group B *(Hiroshima)*: Chile, China, Tunisia, Poland.

Group C *(Nagoya/Gifu)*: Australia, Argentina, Canada, Nigeria.

Group D *(Kyoto)*: Colombia, Qatar, United States, RCS.

YUMIKO IS THE TALK OF THE TOWN

INTERPRETERS receive a mention only, usually, when they have blundered.

This is *not* one of those occasions. Quite the reverse.

Yumiko Saito, hired by the Japan FA for the major events of "J-Week" was quite the most outstanding interpeter I have ever witnessed at work at *any* soccer event.

This was not my opinion alone but shared by many media colleagues and international officials. Another example of Japanese football's faultless attention to detail.

Making an impression . . . interpreter Yumiko Saito.

JEF UNITED 2 (Littbarski 66, Sasaki 72)
YOMIURI VERDY 1 (Kitazawa 68).
Att: 46,959.

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 1 (Bisconti 112)
GAMBA OSAKA 0. **Att:** 10,332.

URAWA RED DIAMONDS 0
GRAMPUS EIGHT 3 (Moriyama 34, 48, Goto 85). **Att:** 9,259.

SHIMIZU S-PULSE 1 (Toninho 16)
HIROSHIMA SANFRECCE 0.
Att: 9,183.

WEEKEND

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 3 (Takada 27, Maeda 44, 59)
URAWA RED DIAMONDS 1 (Mochizuki 72). **Att:** 7,469.

GAMBA OSAKA 0
JEF UNITED 3 (Littbarski 28, Pavel 39, Ejiri 89). **Att:** 15,993.

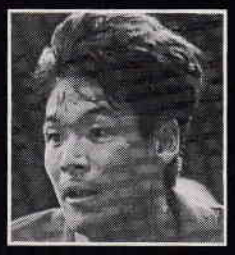
GRAMPUS EIGHT 1 (Sawairi 77)
YOKOHAMA MARINOS 1 (Everton 32). **Att:** 11,267.
Aet, Grampus won 4-3 on pens.

HIROSHIMA SANFRECCE 1 (Matsuda 44)
YOMIURI VERDY 2 (Meijer 37, Takeda 40). **Att:** 36,863.

SHIMIZU S-PULSE 2 (Toninho 57, Horiike 72)
KASHIMA ANTLERS 1 (Carlos 49).
Att: 14,713.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Kashima Antlers	3	2	1	9	4	2
JEF United	3	2	1	6	3	2
Yokohama Flugels	3	2	1	8	6	2
Yokohama Marinos	3	2	1	4	2	2
Shimizu S-Pulse	3	2	1	5	4	2
Grampus Eight	3	2	1	4	6	2
Kawasaki Verdy	3	1	2	4	5	1
Hiroshima Sanfrecce	3	1	2	3	4	1
Gamba Osaka	3	1	2	1	4	1
Urawa Red Diamonds	3	0	3	1	7	0

Scorer . . . Kitazawa of Yomiuri Verdy against JEF United.



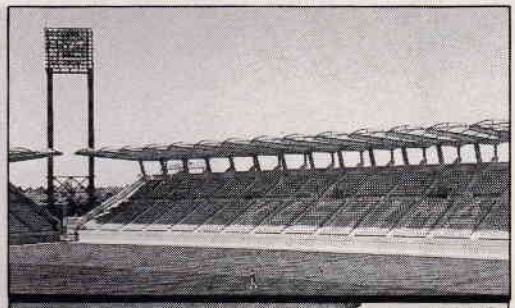
Scorer . . . Sawairi of Grampus Eight against Yokohama Marinos.

STADIA

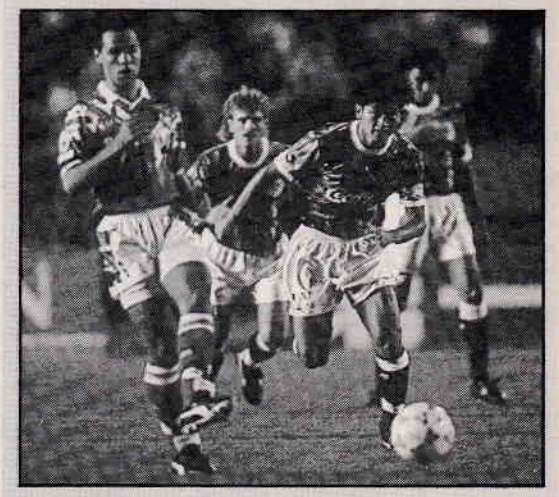
GROUNDS FOR HOPE

PROPOSED STADIA FOR WORLD CUP 2002

Venue	Proposed capacity	Status
Aomori	40,000	new
Hiroshima	43,000	renovated
Ichihara	40,000	new
Kakegawa/Fukuroi	50,000	new
Kashima	40,000	renovated
Kobe	40,000	renovated
Kyoto	50,000	new
Nagoya	50,000	existing
Niigata	40,000	new
Oita	40,000	new
Osaka	50,000	renovated
Rifu	50,000	new
Sapporo	40,000	new
Urawa	40,000	new
Yokohama	70,000	new



J.LEAGUE FIXTURES



Wednesday, 26 May
JEF United v Red Diamonds
Verdy v Antlers
Grampus Eight v Flugels
Gamba v S-Pulse
Sanfrecce v Marinos

Saturday , 29 May
Marinos v JEF United
Flugels v Sanfrecce
Antlers v Gamba
Red Diamonds v Verdy
S-Pulse v Grampus Eight

Wednesday, 2 June
S-Pulse v Verdy
Antlers v JEF United
Red Diamonds v Marinos
Flugels v Gamba
Grampus Eight v Sanfrecce

Saturday, 5 June
Verdy v Flugels
JEF United v S-Pulse
Marinos v Antlers
Gamba v Grampus Eight
Sanfrecce v Red Diamonds

Wednesday, 9 June
Antlers v Red Diamonds
Flugels v JEF United
S-Pulse v Marinos
Grampus Eight v Verdy
Gamba v Sanfrecce

Saturday, 12 June
JEF United v Grampus Eight
Verdy v Gamba
Red Diamonds v S-Pulse
Marinos v Flugels
Sanfrecce v Antlers

Wednesday, 16 June
Verdy v JEF United
Flugels v Antlers
Grampus Eight v Red Diamonds
Gamba v Marinos
Sanfrecce v S-Pulse

Saturday, 19 June
Red Diamonds v Gamba
JEF United v Sanfrecce
Grampus Eight v Antlers
Marinos v Verdy
S-Pulse v Flugels

Wednesday, 23 June
Antlers v Verdy
Red Diamonds v JEF United
Marinos v Sanfrecce
Flugels v Grampus Eight
S-Pulse v Gamba

Saturday, 26 June
Grampus Eight v S-Pulse
Gamba v Antlers
JEF United v Marinos
Sanfrecce v Flugels
Verdy v Red Diamonds

Wednesday, 30 June
JEF United v Antlers
Verdy v S-Pulse
Marinos v Red Diamonds
Gamba v Flugels
Sanfrecce v Grampus Eight

Saturday. 3 July
Antlers v Marinos
Red Diamonds v Sanfrecce
Grampus Eight v Gamba
Flugels v Verdy
S-Pulse v JEF United

Wednesday, 7 July
JEF UNited v Flugels
Red Diamonds v Antlers
Verdy v Grampus Eight
Marinos v S-Pulse
Sanfrecce v Gamba

Saturday, 10 July
Gamba v Verdy
Antlers v Sanfrecce
Flugels v Marinos
Grampus Eight v JEF United
S-Pulse v Red Diamonds

Wednesday, 14 July
Antlers v S-Pulse
JEF United v Gamba
Red Diamonds v Flugels
Verdy v Sanfrecce
Marinos v Grampus Eight

A rocky road to the States

FEW of the many World Cup qualifiers played last month produced a more surprising result than Italy's 1-0 fall to Switzerland in Bern.

Italy's first defeat against her northern neighbour in 39 years came as a definite shock, prompting two immediate observations — namely, that Arrigo Sacchi's side continue to stutter and splutter, 18 months later, and that the gap between the so called "middle order" international teams and the traditional powers, in Europe at least, continues to diminish.

The ironic aspect of Italy's defeat by Switzerland, at least for those of us who have followed the evolution of the side since Sacchi took over in November 1991, is that, for once, Italy did not deserve to lose.

For most of the first half, the Italians were on top, creating two good chances and denying the Swiss as much as a shot on goal.

The controversial turning point of the match came just before half-time when Spanish referee Martin Navarette sent off Italian midfielder Dino Baggio, for a wild tackle on Swiss midfielder Ciriaco Sforza.

Italy, down to ten men for the entire second half, inevitably began to suffer and equally inevitably, Switzerland came back into the game, sensing the chance of pulling off a major coup. Ten minutes into the second half, right back Marc Hottinger of Sion, admittedly helped by a favourable break, started off and finished an attacking move with the only goal of the game, with Switzerland's first shot of the night.

From then on, the traffic was nearly all directed at the Italian goal, with Sampdoria's Gianluca Pagliuca thoroughly justifying his match fee with some fine saves.

Ironically, a few days later, Pagliuca was involved in a serious car crash when his Porsche collided with a lorry on the Livorno-Grossetto autostrada.

Pagliuca's serious shoulder and rib injuries ended his season there and then, but he expects to be back in action in plenty of time for 1993-94.

For the Swiss, of course, it is no run of the mill matter to beat your posh neighbours.

Swiss media reaction was inevitably enthusiastic with the daily *Der Blick* summing up the sense of national pride: "1-0, We're on our way to America, terrific, amazing, colossal, fantastic . . . "

The Swiss enthusiasm is understandable, and in the month when Portugal effectively killed off Scotland with a 5-0 defeat, Italy now have a battle on their hands to ensure qualification in a three-horse race with the Swiss and the Portuguese.

There are still 11 Group One games to play — too many to start assessing permutations and combinations.

What is becoming clear, though, is that if both Portugal and Switzerland maintain present form then the outcome may be decided only on the last day, November 17, when Italy are at home to Portugal and Switzerland entertain Estonia.

What is even clearer, too, is that Sacchi still has not got it together. After 55 (yes, 55) players and 18 months, he continues to mess about with his side.

Nothing could be more indicative of the way he has chopped and changed than the consideration that ten of the 11 players who drew 2-2 with Switzerland in Cagliari last October were dropped for last month's game, just six months later.

Even more remarkable are the reports that, despite having already experimented with 55 players, Sacchi is considering the recall of players such as the Inter pair Giuseppe Bergomi and Nicola Berti.

Bergomi, who was captain of the Italian team coached by Sacchi's predecessor, Azeglio Vicini, was one of the first established names to be discarded under the new Sacchi regime.

When Italy met Switzerland in Cagliari last October, the Swiss deserved two points in a match which they were winning 2-0 with a quarter of an hour left. Italy equalised with the last kick.

Unfortunately for Sacchi, though, that was not the only unimpressive World Cup performance.

Just before Christmas, Italy struggled to beat Malta 2-1 away, in a game in which Malta missed a 60th-minute penalty when the score was 0-0.

The great question concering Sacchi and Italy remains unanswered. As coach of Milan, Sacchi had remarkable success, coming from Parma in 1987 to immediately win a league title and then a Champions' Cup.

How much, however, did Sacchi's Milan depend on the Dutch trio of Frank Rijkaard, Ruud Gullit and Marco Van Basten and how much on Sacchi's bold, innovative chasing and harrying game?

Time may tell, but for now, Sacchi refuses to be discouraged by the Swiss defeat, saying: "This was a loss which should not be read as indicating further losses ahead, but on the contrary should leave us feeling calm about the future.

"We still have three games to play and, as I've already said to my players, we're capable of winning all three.

"It's true that our task has become quite a bit more difficult but with a team like this I'm optimistic and not worried."

Probably the confidence is justified. Certainly, Italy still

World Cup key man . . . Dino Baggio of Juventus.

World Cup hopefuls . . . Fuser of Italy on the ball against Quentin of Switzerland (left).

World Cup winner . . . Bergomi clears from West Germany's Rummenigge in the 1982 Final (below).

World Cup victim . . . first-choice goalkeeper Pagliuca (bottom) was injured in a road accident

have a more than excellent chance of qualifying for the US World Cup.

The more serious question, though, concerns Sacchi and the nature of the Italian side he will take with him to that World Cup.

One is entitled to wonder if the experimentation has not gone on too long. Was it really necessary to bring in Daniele Zoratto for his first cap at the age of 31?

Is it necessary to consistently ask players such as Giuseppe Signori, Roberto Baggio and Paolo Maldini to play out of position?

Where would the side be without captain Franco Baresi, hastily fished out of a premature international "retirement"?

Above all, has not the time come when Sacchi might best be advised to resort to the tried and true method, at international level, of deciding on a team and sticking with them. Perhaps next autumn's games against Estonia, Scotland and Portugal will provide some answers, indicating that the side finally are beginning to play.

On the Icague front, by the time you read this Milan should have wrapped up their 13th title. But more about them and the European successes of Parma and Juventus next month.

PADDY AGNEW

RESULTS

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 9

WEEKEND

FIORENTINA 1 (Di Mauro 89)
PARMA 1 (Melli 43). **Att:** 36,000.

BRESCIA 2 (Raducioiu 71 pen, 87)
ATALANTA 0. **Att:** 14,000.

CAGLIARI 1 (Bisoli 45)
UDINESE 1 (Branca 66). **Att:** 20,000.

INTER 2 (Bacci 3 o.g., Schiliaci 81)
LAZIO 0. **Att:** 60,000.

JUVENTUS 4 (R. Baggio 15, 45, 80, Vialli 26)
FOGGIA 2 (Sciacca 52 pen, Kolivanov 64). **Att:** 35,000.

NAPOLI 2 (Careca 11, Ferrara 36)
GENOA 2 (Caricola 41, Padovano 55 pen). **Att:** 70,000.

TORINO 5 (Aguilera 16, 44, 58, Silenzi 51, Scifo 87 pen)
ROMA 4 (Carnevale 23, Muzzi 29, Hassler 62 pen, Comi 81). **Att:** 43,000.

SAMPDORIA 1 (R. Mancini 8)
PESCARA 1 (Allegri 37). **Att:** 27,000.

SERIE A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milan	32	18	12	2	62	30	48
Internazionale	32	16	12	4	56	34	44
Parma	32	15	8	9	44	33	38
Juventus	32	14	9	9	54	41	37
Lazio	32	12	12	8	60	44	36
Sampdoria	32	12	11	9	47	43	35
Cagliari	32	13	8	11	40	32	34
Torino	32	9	16	7	37	34	34
Atalanta	32	13	8	11	39	42	34
Roma	32	8	15	9	39	36	31
Napoli	32	10	11	11	45	45	31
Foggia	32	10	11	11	36	48	31
Genoa	32	6	16	10	37	52	28
Fiorentina	32	7	13	12	46	53	27
Udinese	32	9	9	14	39	47	27
Brescia	32	8	11	13	32	42	27
Ancona	32	6	7	19	39	69	19
Pescara	32	5	5	22	42	70	15

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 16

WEEKEND

PARMA 2 (Osio 48, 58)
JUVENTUS 1 (R. Baggio 39). **Att:** 28,000.

ATALANTA 2 (Pisani 30, Bordin 88)
FIORENTINA 1 (Faccenda 85). **Att:** 17,800.

FOGGIA 1 (Kolivanov 2)
SAMPDORIA 0. **Att:** 15,000.

GENOA 1 (Panucci 27)
INTER 1 (Sosa 53). **Att:** 29,500.

LAZIO 5 (Cravero 26, Fuser 48, Riedle 71, Signori 89, 90)
ANCONA 0. **Att:** 40,000.

MILAN 0
ROMA 0. **Att:** 76,300.

PESCARA 3 (Paladini 51, Borgonovo 74, 91)
NAPOLI 0. **Att:** 6,000.

CAGLIARI 0
TORINO 5 (Firicano 4, Francescoli 10, 65, Pusceddu 77, Oliveira 91). **Att:** 23,500.

UDINESE 2 (Balbo 6 pen, Branca 40)
BRESCIA 2 (Raducioiu 44, 88). **Att:** 24,600.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 23

WEEKEND

CAGLIARI 1 (Francescoli 4)
MILAN 1 (Massaro 33). **Att:** 30,000.

ANCONA 5 (M. Agostini 7, 26, 51, Vecchiola 40, Ermini 87)
PESCARA 3 (Sivebaek 18, Palladini 42, Allegri 81). **Att:** 8,000.

BRESCIA 2 (Sabau 52, Hagi 73)
LAZIO 0. **Att:** 10,000.

FIORENTINA 2 (Effenberg 40 pen, 60)
UDINESE 2 (Dell'Anno 16, Branca 23). **Att:** 32,500.

AS ROMA 2 (Giannini 19, Rizzitelli 92)
ATALANTA 2 (Alemao 33, Perrone 45). **Att:** 40,000.

INTER 1 (Sosa 27)
FOGGIA 1 (Roy 87). **Att:** 45,000.

JUVENTUS 1 (Platt 47)
SAMPDORIA 1 (Jugovic 4). **Att:** 40,000.

NAPOLI 1 (Policano 60)
TORINO 1 (Poggi 81). **Att:**45,000.

GENOA 1 (Padovano 64)
PARMA 1 (Asprilla 27). **Att:** 27,000.

Balbo

LEADING SCORERS

1 ..... **Signori** (Lazio) 25
2 ..... **Balbo** (Udinese) 21
3 ..... **R. Baggio** (Juventus) 20
4 ..... **Sosa** (Inter) 18
5 ..... **Fonseca** (Napoli) 16
6 ..... **R. Mancini** (Sampdoria) 14
7 ..... **Batistuta** (Fiorentina) 13
..... **Van Basten** (Milan) 13

Born to be a scorer

By NICK **BIDWELL**

WORLDWIDE influences have done much to shape the development of the Juventus and Italy striker, Pierluigi Casiraghi.

"During my younger days I had football idols all over the place," says Gigi, as Casiraghi is known to his friends. "I used to model myself on a number of stars.

"For example, I was a great admirer of the strength and determination shown by Denmark's Preben Elkjaer and Carlos Santillana of Real Madrid, and the finishing skill of Roberto Bettega, who used to be with Juventus.

"Another favourite was England's Mark Hateley while he was at Milan in the mid-1980s.

"As for my qualities, I'm good in the air and athletic. Fans like me because I'm brave and never give up. On the other hand, I'm not the most gifted player on the ball."

But the methods sometimes cause a row

Juventus supporters might differ with Casiraghi's last statement. His first touch is invariably good and his technique is not often found wanting.

For example, he hit a memorable equaliser in a 1-1 Serie A draw at Milan last year.

With Juventus trailing to an early Marco Van Basten goal, Roberto Galia made tracks along the left, swapped passes with Roberto Baggio and clipped the ball inside. Milan's normally faultless Paolo Maldini was "sleeping" and Casiraghi was left free to crash a vicious right-foot volley from the edge of the box.

Gloss finish . . . Juventus striker Roberto Bettega and Fiorentina's Giancarlo Antognoni (10) celebrate a goal for Italy in a World Cup qualifier against Yugoslavia in Belgrade in 1981.

Not bad for someone who claims he is not particularly skilful.

Certainly Italy manager Arrigo Sacchi has no reservations about Casiraghi. For the World Cup '94 qualifier in Portugal last February, Sacchi left the experienced Gianluca Vialli at home and called on Gigi instead.

To the delight of his coach, Casirahi responded with a well-taken goal in a 3-1 victory.

Throughout the evening he subjected his marker, Fernando Couto, to a bruising examination.

"I'm an old-style centre-forward, probably the only one in the Italian league," says Casiraghi.

"That's why Sacchi picked me. He wants my physical presence and spirit in attack. My job is to keep defenders under pressure.

"I'm hopeful I can strike up a good relationship with Beppe Signori. Apart from being a tremendous scorer, he's unselfish, and I'm sure he will create many chances for me.

"Italy took a lot of criticism following the autumn World Cup draws against Switzerland and Scotland. Now we're back on course to qualify for America.

"Our supporters must be patient. We have all the makings of a good team, and Sacchi is one of the outstanding managers in world football."

Ironically, despite earning a place in the national side, Casiraghi has been on his club's sidelines for Juventus for much of the season just ended.

Club coach Giovanni Trapattoni often has preferred to use Gianluca Vialli and Roberto Baggio up front, and rumours suggest that Juventus are contemplating exchanging Pierluigi for Internazionale winger Alessandro Bianchi.

"Juventus are a legendary club," says Casiraghi. "But if I continue to spend more time on the bench than in opposition penalty areas, I'll have to think about a move. I've no option."

Pierluigi Casiraghi was born in Monza on March 4, 1969, and began his soccer career with his hometown club at the age of ten.

"I've always been a striker," he points out. "When I was 12, I scored 79 goals in a season, averaging almost three per game.

"I made my first-team debut for the club in 1985 and for the next four years Monza shuttled between the Second and Third Divisions.

"Then Juventus turned my world upside down by signing me in the summer of 1989."

Casiraghi helped Juventus to lift the 1990 UEFA Cup and Italian Cup, and eight months later he won his first full cap in a 0-0 friendly draw with Belgium in Terni.

His former Juventus front-line partner, Toto Schillaci, says: "All forwards would love to play alongside someone like Gigi.

"While defenders worried about his great heading ability and physical approach, I had more time and space to operate. He was the ideal foil for me."

Not that Casiraghi exclusively inspires compliments.

Quite the opposite. Many Serie A performers virulently complain that he is prone to foul play and gamesmanship. Last season he was accused of feigning injury to ensure the expulsions of Milan's Maldini and the Torino pair, Pasquale Bruno and Roberto Policano.

"Casiraghi is a super striker, but there can be no doubt that he has a mean streak," says ex-Napoli and Italy hardman Salvatore Bagni.

"He is provocative. At times he can be a cunning devil."

A successful one, as well.

PRO-FILE

PIERLUIGI CASIRAGHI

JUVENTUS AND ITALY

Born: March 4, 1969, in Monza.

Previous club: Monza.

Serie A debut: August 1989, for Juventus v Bologna.

International debut: February 1991 v Belgium.

International caps: 9 (2 goals).

HONOURS

UEFA Cup: 1990.

Italian Cup: 1990.

Atletico face huge debt

thoughts . . .
l may have to
der his policies.

WHAT next at Manzanares? The re-shaping of Atletico Madrid is one of the interesting processes to keep an eye on this summer, as Jesus Gil plays his way out of arguably the tightest corner he has been in since his arrival in 1987.

Looking on the bright side, the departures of Paulo Futre and Bernd Schuster have taken £2m off a wage bill which accounts for 60 per cent of Atletico's £13m turnover. But in playing terms they will be hard to replace.

What's more, there's not a great deal of economic wind left in the sails as Gil tries to tack his way towards new horizons.

Sales of season tickets have dropped from 32,000 to 12,000 and attendances have plummeted. Only the local derbies against Real and Rayo Vallecano have produced anything like a reasonable atmosphere in the 70,000-capacity stadium, along with Deportivo La Coruna's visit, which atttracted around 15,000 "gallegos" to the ground.

Final figures for the season are likely to confirm an average of 18,000. This leaves Atletico tenth in the attendance league and the drop in one season is approximately 25 per cent.

President Gil may have to revise the pricing policy he brashly announced at the beginning of the season.

"If you want to see a superteam with Futre and company," he told the fans, "you've got to pay. If you don't, you stay away."

The cheapest season ticket rose from £72 to £360. The most expensive, guaranteeing a prime seat in the main stand, went from £330 to £2,500.

The increase of between 400 and 650 per cent made Atletico by far and away the most expensive club in Spain to watch.

Now, of course, there is no superteam, no Futre.

What is more, Gil — whose shareholding in Atletico amounts to 95 per cent — may find himself on the spot next January through no fault of his own.

To finance the stadium's construction the club made a 100million peseta bond issue in 1958 (£600,000 at the time) sold in 100,000 units of 1,000 pesetas. By 1985 the bond issue had accumulated so much dust that the Stock Exchange in Madrid stopped quoting. The bond certificates state quite clearly, however, that bearers will be reimbursed on January 1, 1994, with the original 1,000 pesetas, plus cost-of-living rises.

What was £6 in 1958 is now just over £115 and if all the bonds are produced Gil will have to find £11.5million.

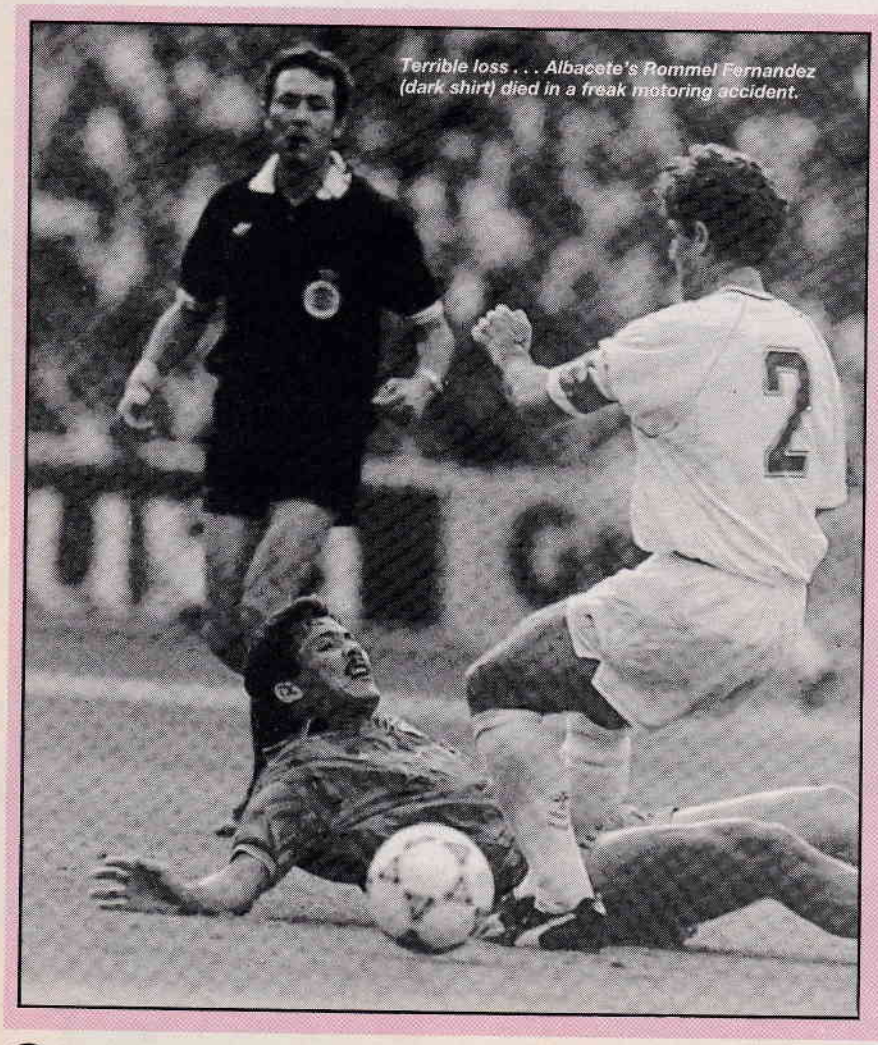
All this means that Gil was perhaps unwise to cross swords with UEFA. But he reacted with indignation to the post-match tumult after Atletico played Olympiakos in the quarter-finals of the Cup-winners' Cup — both clubs were fined — and sent the proverbial strongly-worded letter to Switzerland, to complain that Aron Schmidhuber had stitched Atletico up by not awarding a potentially decisive penalty during the semi-final in Parma.

"I might resign from the presidency, and hand over to my son," said Gil.

"That seems to be the best way to wage war on UEFA."

Second thoughts might persuade him to revise a whole series of policies.

GRAHAM **TURNER**


Terrible loss . . . Albacete's Rommel Fernandez (dark shirt) died in a freak motoring accident.

Rommel dies in car crash

THE exodus of top stars from Spanish football is a clear indication that finances at the clubs, after one year of their new lives as limited companies, are not exactly buoyant.

Futre and Schuster have gone. Zaragoza lost Mateut and Brehme during the season. Maradona has thrown in the towel at Sevilla. Barcelona are trying to sell Witschge.

Valencia want to offload Belodedic . . .

But the most unexpected and tragic exit was that of Panamanian striker Rommel Fernandez, killed when he lost control of his car on a long, straight road just outside Albacete.

His cousin, in the passenger seat of the Toyota Celica suffered nothing worse than a damaged wrist.

"We hit a bump at speed," he said. "Rommel hit the brakes. The car turned over and crashed into a tree."

Rommel, 27, had passed his driving test only last summer. He had bought the car during his spell with Tenerife, even though he was unable to drive it, and had arrived in the Canaries in the most improbable of fashions.

He was born on January 15, 1966, in El Chorrillo — one of the poorest suburbs of Panama City — and named after the German general.

In 1986, shortly after his international debut for Panama, he went to Tenerife and, because his surname sounded Spanish enough, was slipped through the back door into a World Cup disputed by teams of Spanish emigres.

He impressed the Tenerife coaches and was signed.

His finishing — and especially his heading ability — were crucial in getting the side into the First Division and won him a move to Valencia in 1991.

But he was unable to fit into Guus Hiddink's attacking scheme and was loaned to Albacete this season.

Ironically he had just overcome a long-term injury and had returned to peak form.

GRAHAM **TURNER**

SPOTLIGHT ON

IVAN LUIS ZAMORANO

Feet on the ground

Fans warm to the Chile hot-shot

CHILE are not the greatest soccer nation in South America. Argentina, Brazil even tiny Uruguay hold the reins of history and power.

Between them they have seven triumphs in the World Cup (as many as the rest of the world put together) and a mutual history overflowing with great clubs and players.

In South America, Chile are second-rate material, along with Colombia, Paraguay and Peru. Their greatest achievement was finishing third when they hosted the World Cup in 1962, with powerful wing-half Eladio Rojas, midfield schemer Jorge Toro, temperamental left winger Leonel Sanchez and driving centre-forward Honorino Landa in the team.

Few of their players have left much impression on the international scene since then, but now a scorer has arisen who threatens to turn history on its head.

He is known as Ivan the Terrible, his real name is Ivan Zamorano, he is 26, and he is leading the revival at Real Madrid. Already the quick, hard-shooting Chilean has banished memories of Hugo Sanchez, the spectacular Mexican who was top scorer in the Spanish League for five years.

Indeed, Zamorano might even follow Sanchez's Pichichi title trail — a hat-trick against Sevilla lifted him to the top of the scoring charts with 27 goals.

Madrid kicked out Sanchez a year ago, intimating that he had become too big for his shooting boots, and quickly agreed terms with rivals Sevilla for Zamorano. Come the end of the season, a four-year contract and a £4 million deal was signed and sealed.

Zamorano soon earned the Madrid fans' approval when he cracked home a superb effort in the 2-1 defeat of old rivals Barcelona — which delighted a capacity 95,000 in the Estadio Bernabeau.

Yet Zamorano remains modest enough to credit much of his recent explosion to his season of European tuition with the homely little Swiss club, St. Gallen.

He says: "Without the two years I spent at St Gallen I would not be at Madrid today.

"It's like this: when I left my Chilean club, Cobresal, to come to Europe, I had a trial in Italy with Bologna. But I didn't impress them and so I had to settle for Switzerland.

"I though that was second best. Now I know different.

"We had only six full-time professionals and the size of the crowds meant the club's financial standing was very much on the borderline. But, looking back, that was good for me. I was a footballer with a blank page. I had the opportunity to write my own story.

"I had to work. I had to start at the bottom. There was no excuse to take on any airs and graces.

"Also I was very aware of my responsibilities to my family back in Chile. My father had died when I was 13. It was a terrible blow for myself, my sister Erica and my mother. As the eldest child, the only son, I had to grow up very fast.

"I had to learn about working for the right to live. That lesson also helped me as a footballer.

"The only thing which surprises me, looking back, is quite how quickly everything took off in my career."

After two years at St Gallen, in which Zamorano became Swiss top scorer with 23 goals in 1989-90, he was sold to Sevilla for £1.5 million. Sevilla's £2.5 million profit on him went towards the controversial purchase of Diego Maradona.

Zamorano's high profile in Spanish soccer helped him, no doubt, to earn selection as Chilean Sportsman of the Year. But he has kept his feet on the ground.

Madrid offered him a choice of sumptuous villas such as those in which team-mates Michel and Butragueno live. He politely, said "No thanks." What should he do with all that space?

He needed enough only for himself and his mother, who looks after him. So Zamorano lives in a modern apartment block, perfectly happily.

As he says: "It's important in every facet of life to keep your feet on the ground. Look at me: I'm healthy and I'm happy. To ask anything more would be impertinent!"

KEIR **RADNEDGE**

PRO-FILE

IVAN LUIS ZAMORANO
REAL MADRID AND CHILE

Born: January 18, 1967 in Colonia De Maipu, Chile.

Previous clubs: Cobresal, Bologna, St Gallen, Sevilla.

International caps: 18.

RESULTS

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 2

WEEKEND

REAL ZARAGOZA 2 (Poyet 27, Pardeza 38)
BURGOS 1 (Loren 56). Att: 15,000.

ESPANOL 0
BARCELONA 1 (Koeman 70 pen). Att: 25,000.

ATHLETIC BILBAO 0
GIJON 0. Att: 33,000.

CADIZ 1 (Kiko 77)
TENERIFE 3 (Castillo 28, 83, Estebarranz 53). Att: 9,000.

LOGRONES 1 (Salenko 60)
ALBACETE 0. Att: 8,000.

OVIEDO 0
REAL MADRID 4 (Butragueno 2, Hierro 36, Zamorano 63, 90). Att: 16,000.

VALENCIA 3 (Penev 24, 29, 47)
LA CORUNA 0. Att: 46,000.

RAYO VALLECANO 1 (Polster 41)
REAL SOCIEDAD 1 (Perez 83). Att: 10,000.

CELTA 0
OSASUNA 0. Att: 13,000.

ATLETICO MADRID 1 (Sabas 77)
SEVILLA 0. Att: 10,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 9

WEEKEND

VALENCIA 1 (Penev 10)
ATLETICO MADRID 0. Att: 43,600.

LA CORUNA 0
LOGRONES 1 (Salenko 65). Att: 23,200.

ALBACETE v ATLETICO BILBAO — *postponed.*

GIJON 3 (Manjarin 9, Christiansen 62 pen, 74)
REAL ZARAGOZA 1 (Moises 90 pen). Att: 9,200.

OSASUNA 0
SEVILLA 1 (Rafa Paz 80). Att: 12,100.

BURGOS 1 (Boerenbach 13)
ESPANOL 1 (Lluis 74). Att: 11,000.

REAL SOCIEDAD 1 (Alkiza 58)
CELTA 1 (Otero 41). Att: 19,000.

BARCELONA 4 (Stoichkov 23, Beguiristain 45, Bakero 60, Koeman 88 pen)
CADIZ 1 (Fali 90). Att: 69,700.

REAL MADRID 1 (Zamorano 70)
RAYO VALLECANO 1 (Riesco 46). Att: 82,400.

TENERIFE 1 (Pizzi 84 pen)
OVIEDO 2 (Carlos 48, Jankovic 65 pen). Att: 21,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 16

WEEKEND

REAL ZARAGOZA 0
ALBACETE 1 (Pinilla 89). Att: 15,000.

ESPANOL 1 (Lluis 90)
GIJON 2 (Christiansen 56, Ivan 78). Att: 20,000.

ATHLETIC BILBAO 0
LA CORUNA 1 (Claudio 74). Att: 32,000.

CADIZ 3 (Kiko 14, Javi 20, Carmelo 79)
BURGOS 2 (Loren 41, Alejandro 72). Att: 10,000.

LOGRONES 3 (Poyatos 6, Erana 69, 84)

VALENCIA 2 (Leonardo 28, Roberto 90 pen). Att: 11,000.

OVIEDO 1 (Carlos 38)
BARCELONA 0. Att: 21,200.

RAYO VALLECANO 2 (Argenta 66, Pablo 84)
TENERIFE 2 (Del Solar 59, Felipe 64. Att: 9,000.

CELTA 1 (Gudelj 45)
REAL MADRID 1 (Michel 12 pen). Att: 30,000.

SEVILLA 3 (Conte 33, Simeone 37, Suker 46)
REAL SOCIEDAD 1 (Uria 82). Att: 23,000.

ATLETICO MADRID 2 (Moya 63, Donato 90)
OSASUNA 1 (Larrainzar 83). Att: 8,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 23

WEEKEND

LOGRONES 2 (Erana 44, Salenko 79)
ATLETICO MADRID 1 (Donato 74). Att: 12,000.

VALENCIA 3 (Tomas 50, Eloy 56, Penev 61)
ATHLETIC BILBAO 1 (Garcia 88). Att: 40,000.

LA CORUNA 1 (Marcos 60)
REAL ZARAGOZA 0. Att: 24,000.

ALBACETE 2 (Zalazar 70, 83 pen)
ESPANOL 0. Att: 17,000.

GIJON 1 (Juanele 72)
CADIZ 0. Att: 18,000.

BURGOS 1 (Fenoll 82)
OVIEDO 1 (Jankovic 53). Att: 8,000.

REAL SOCIEDAD 1 (Kodro 71)
OSASUNA 3 (Jose Mari 14, Urban 38, Pascual 80). Att: 15,000.

BARCELONA 4 (Salinas 7, Bakero 22, Koeman 50, 82 pen)
RAYO VALLECANO 0. Att: 80,000.

REAL MADRID 5 (Zamorano 16, 38, 43, Michel 32, Hierro 78)
SEVILLA 0. Att: 100,000.

TENERIFE 1 (Gomez 85)
CELTA VIGO 0. Att: 21,000.

LEADING SCORERS

1 ..... **Zamorano** (Real Madrid) 27
2 ..... **Bebeto** (La Coruna) 26
3 ..... **Stoichkov** (Barcelona) 19

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	34	22	8	4	81	30	52
Real Madrid	34	22	8	4	72	26	52
La Coruna	34	20	8	6	58	29	48
Valencia	34	16	10	8	52	31	42
Tenerife	34	14	13	7	54	41	41
Atletico Madrid	34	15	9	10	48	38	39
Sevilla	34	15	8	11	40	40	38
Osasuna	34	12	8	14	40	37	32
Atletic Bilbao	33	13	6	14	40	43	32
Real Sociedad	34	12	7	15	43	55	31
Zaragoza	34	10	11	13	33	46	31
Gijon	34	10	11	13	35	52	31
Celta	34	8	14	12	21	28	30
Oviedo	34	10	9	15	37	43	29
Rayo Vallecano	34	7	15	12	35	44	29
Espanol	34	9	11	14	40	49	29
Logrones	34	9	10	15	30	46	28
Albacete	33	9	7	17	44	51	25
Cadiz	34	5	11	18	29	63	21
Burgos	34	3	12	19	25	65	18

Europe-bound . . . Bebeto of La Coruna.

THE SPORT LIGHT ON

BERND SCHUSTER

Still one of the best

Schuster shows he's not a Bernd-out case

BERND SCHUSTER does not claim to be the most gregarious of footballers. His last-in, first-out approach to life in the dressing room has raised a few hackles, and one of his latest refusals to toe the line inspired the Atletico Madrid president, Jesus Gil, to declare that Schuster was a burnt-out case.

Gil, perhaps underestimating the firmness of the player's Christ-the-Scientist beliefs, threatened mayhem if Brother Bernd continued to refuse the club doctor's cure for an arthritic ankle.

German midfielder Schuster stood his ground and stuck faithfully to herbal remedies.

So it's ironic that he should now be heading for downtown Aspirinville, having signed a two-year deal with Bayer Leverkusen that will keep him active until the age of 35.

The move ends a 12 and a half year era in which, amid all the sulks, tiffs, divorces and law-suits, Schuster has left indelible marks on Spanish soccer, becoming the only player to win major titles with the top three clubs.

TITLES

GERMANY

European Championship: 1980

KOLN

League: 1978
Cup: 1978

BARCELONA

League: 1985
Cup: 1981, 1983,1988
League Cup: 1983, 1986
Super Cup: 1983
Cup-winners Cup: 1982

REAL MADRID

League: 1989, 1990
Cup: 1989
Super Cup: 1988

ATLETICO MADRID

Cup: 1991, 1992

In short, Schuster has made history. He has made a bit of money, too. About £7m, according to conservative estimates.

His sons, David and Benjamin, are keen to follow dad's footsteps "because he has a big house and a big boat in Ibiza".

They, along with Sara and Rebecca, have attended German schools in Barcelona and Madrid but now face the challenge of adapting to a homeland they have never lived in.

Tributes to Schuster, as with Brian Clough, run into the problem of separating the football from the controversies.

The latter started, of course, before he left Koln in the wake of the 1980 European Championship. German football has been poorer for his refusal to appear in the national team for over a decade . . . or has it?

That remains open to question. And how does such an affable, quiet and humorous man manage to fall out with so many colleagues, directors, presidents, managers, referees and fans?

The Catalans cried treason when he upped and left for Real Madrid and the Meringues did likewise when he failed to up and leave but stayed put and joined Atletico instead.

There are reasons to suspect — and hope — that Leverkusen have not acquired the over-the-hill misfit which Atletico claim to be discarding.

Schuster's game has never been about pace and strength. Although the floppy blond mane, the loping run and the lop-sided gait give an impression of sloth, he is still effective from box to box.

His vision and his ability to hit Netzer-style long passes with geometrical precision have not faded with age, nor has the power and accuracy of his free-kicks, nor the knack of abruptly turning past opponents.

Schuster was badly hurt when Atletico's technical secretary, Ruben Cano, told Gil he was finished and recommended signing Jose Luis Villarreal from Boca Juniors.

Now he returns to the Bundesliga determined to prove he is not a Bernd-out case.

GRAHAM **TURNER**

OFF THE BALL

Nov 80 ....After first game for Barcelona, says: "There are a lot of players in the team who only play for themselves".

Jan 81 ....Leaves team hotel before local derby v Espanol.
Two dust-ups in training.

Mar 81 ....Wants to leave Barcelona. Refuses to play against Atletico Madrid.

May 81 ....Says he'll leave if Rummenigge is signed.

Jun 81 .... Says Spanish referees are mad.

Dec 81 ....Seriously hurt in Bilbao, and says later that playing there is like fighting in Korea.

Oct 82 .....Throws boots at coach Udo Lattek on being substituted, and calls him a drunkard.

Feb 84 ....Criticises directors for contemplating swap with Falcao.

Sep 85 ....As skipper, threatens "drastic action" if bonus structure is not agreed.

May 86 ....Walks out after being substituted during Champions' Cup Final. President says he will never play for Barcelona again.

Aug 86 ....Lawyers acting for Schuster try to have Gary Lineker's registration declared void.

May 87 ....Fails in his legal bid to have contract rescinded. Court proceedings run to 1,110 pages and reveal that Barcelona's double-contract policy has produced tax irregularities. The entire squad lose money and call for the president's resignation. Spends the whole season without talking to manager Venables.

Feb 88 ....Maximum fine imposed for "the way he asked for a substitution". Sued by taxman for 6.6m pesetas.

Mar 88 ....Fined for obscene gesture at fans.

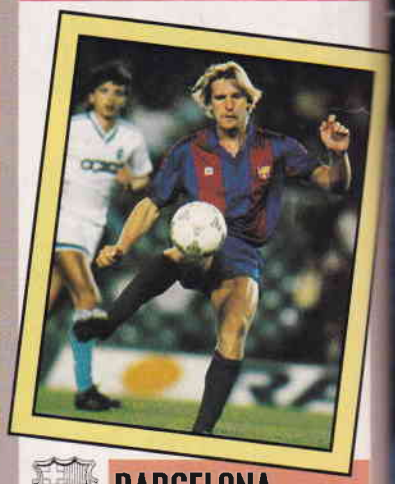
Oct 88 .....Joins Real Madrid then says "midfield isn't big enough for Gallego and me".

May 90 ....Refuses to tour Mexico without family. Contract terminated.

Oct 90 .....Joins Atletico Madrid.

Nov 91 ....Expelled from Atletico training for not working properly.

ON THE BALL



BARCELONA

Season	League	Cups	Europe
1980-81	23 (11)	5	0
1981-82	13 (8)	0	4 (3)
1982-83	27 (5)	12 (1)	5 (4)
1983-84	22 (7)	3 (2)	4 (1)
1984-85	32 (11)	10 (7)	2
1985-86	22 (10)	3 (1)	6 (1)
1986-87	0	0	0
1987-88	30 (9)	8 (3)	9 (1)

REAL MADRID

Season	League	Cups	Europe
1988-89	33 (7)	9 (1)	8
1989-90	28 (6)	7	2

ATLETICO MADRID

Season	League	Cups	Europe
1990-91	29 (4)	7 (1)	0
1991-92	26 (5)	3	6 (4)
1992-93	18 (1)	2	6

Goals in brackets

Out of nowhere . . . Alen Boksic has had an astonishing rise.

Monopoly? Non!

Several clubs can challenge the best

DEFEAT in a French Cup tie at Saint Etienne, even if it was in extra time, was hardly what the doctor ordered for Marseille, as they prepared for the Champions' Cup Final against all-powerful Milan.

But at least it did show that French football hasn't yet, at any rate, turned into a monopoly, and that other teams besides Monaco, Auxerre, Bordeaux and Paris Saint-Germain, are capable of giving Marseille a run for their money.

Talking of Paris Saint-Germain, the decision which so strangely and suspiciously robbed George Weah of a penalty in the UEFA Cup, when he was so plainly fouled in the box by Massimo Carrera of Juventus, continues to rankle, even if Gianluca Vialli might have had claims for a spot kick when seemingly fouled in the first half.

Marseille's 6-0 win in the Champions' Cup after CSKA had fought like fiends in every other match was a little bit surprising, too.

How many stars will remain at Marseille next season? The astonishing rise of Alen Boksic, the Croatian who came, in a sense, out of nowhere to score so freely at home and abroad, may justify Bernard Tapie's decision to sell Jean-Pierre Papin to Milan. Especially as both Milan and Juventus showed themselves ready to pay up to

THE SPOTLIGHT ON BIXENTE LIZARAZU

Tons of tiny talent

'My build is not a problem'

By NICK BIDWELL

BORDEAUX and France wing-back Bixente Lizarazu has the stature of a champion.

At 5 feet 4 inches he is the same height as Diego Maradona, but he insists that the comparisons end there.

"Size is the only thing we have in common," he says. "Seriously, my build has never been a problem for me. In the past, others thought I was too small to be a professional. They were wrong. If you have the talent and the will, physique does not come into it.

"A few years ago, Alain Giresse was a wonderful midfielder for Bordeaux and France — and he was even smaller than me. Everyone has the right to play football."

Lizarazu performed splendidly in the season just ending. As well as starring in Bordeaux's surge to third place in their domestic championship he deservedly forced his way into the French national team.

On a wet Parisian night last November, Lizarazu celebrated his senior debut in a World Cup qualifier against Finland, and wasted no time in creating a favourable impression.

Midway through the first half he combined neatly with Eric Cantona before unleashing a right-foot drive.

Keeper Kari Laukkanen did well to parry it, but a few moments later Bixente scampered purposefully forward once more and centred for Cantona to bundle in France's second goal in a 2-1 victory. Little wonder that French coach Gerard Houllier rates Lizarazu so highly.

"All sides need quick wide men, who can both defend and support the attack," explains Houllier. "Lizarazu is such a player.

"Whether used as a conventional left-back or in a more advanced midfield role, he has never let me down."

Not that Lizarazu is the type to become complacent about his international status.

"It is far too early for me to assume that I'm an automatic choice," he says. "I think I have done enough to be retained, but you cannot be certain.

"Every time Gerard Houllier picks me, I must make sure I do all I can to justify his faith.

"I'm proud to represent France alongside players such as Jean-Pierre Papin and Eric Cantona. There is a superb spirit in the squad and we have every chance of reaching the World Cup finals next year.

"A trip to the United States would be a highlight of my career."

Bixente Lizarazu was born in the French-Basque town of

In French colours . . . Lizarazu takes on Austria's Manfred Zsak.

PRO-FILE

BIXENTE LIZARAZU

BORDEAUX AND FRANCE

Born: February 9, 1969 in Saint-Jean-de-Luz.

Previous clubs: Eglantins of Hendaye.

League debut: November 1988, for Bordeaux v Caen.

International debut: November 1992 v Finland.

International caps: 3 (0 goals)

HONOURS

French Second Division Championship: 1992

an amazing £10million for Boksic. Now Atalanta are in for the powerfully right-footed Franck Sauzee, while Ghana's Pele might also be on the move.

That £10million for Boksic, at the height of his form, is an offer which no club, with the possible exception of Milan, could readily refuse. But they seem these days to have a revolving door at Marseille. Note that when it came to hiring a shrewd observer of the Milanese opposition, who should Tapie turn to but the manager he edged out at the start of the season, the experienced Yugoslav, Tomislav Ivic.

Good to see that another ex-Marseille manager, young Gerard Gili, has decided to stay with Montpellier, where he has done such a good job. Gili eventually reached agreement with the grand patron of the club, Louis Nicollin, and the "escape clause" in his contract has not been activated.

A decision which recently went against Auxerre in court could have grave implications for the French game at large. Auxerre were told to pay 1.6 million francs in damages and interest to their former defender, Axel Gendreaux, for "abusive breach of contract." Not a fortune, some £160,000, but it means that should Auxerre fail in their appeal, then they and other French clubs will all be subject to the law of the land as opposed to the rules of football.

As long ago as September, 1987, Gendreaux damaged the cruciate ligaments in a knee. Guy Roux, the accomplished veteran manager of Auxerre, did his best for the player, whose career was thus ended, but failed to persuade the club to take the necessary steps under the labour laws. Which now puts them in deep trouble.

Auxerre midfielder Corentin Martins was a colossal success in his first full international match for France, against Sweden in the recent World Cup tie, in Paris.

Martins, 23-year-old son of Portuguese immigrants, showed that international football holds no terrors for him. Like David Ginola, who played the first half in attack, he was once with Brest.

There's no substitute for the absent Papin, of course, though Eric Cantona did his best, duly scoring the two goals. How long will Cantona stay with Manchester United? Not indefinitely, I imagine. In an interview here some months ago, he expressed a romantic desire to play in Prague and, knowing Cantona, that whim might yet be fulfilled.

No doubt that Sparta and the rest would love to have him. They could not remotely afford to pay him what he has been paid at Leeds and Old Trafford, but Cantona is your original rolling stone, and might yet roll into Bohemia.

ANDRE **DUCLOS**

Saint-Jean-de-Luz on February 9, 1969, and quickly adopted an athletic lifestyle.

"My father played rugby and my mother was good at tennis, so I naturally took up those sports," he recalls.

"I also liked to ski, sail and swim, but football was my favourite.

"I remember enjoying soccer tournaments for children which were organised by a local priest. I was a left-winger at the time and I was often the top scorer."

After playing for the Eglantins club of Hendaye and representing the Aquitaine region's schoolboy side, Lizarazu joined Bordeaux in 1984.

"My first two years here were not particularly rewarding," he says.

"The club had a lot of young attackers and I was usually a substitute with the youth team.

"I finally broke into the reserves in 1988 and in November of that year I made my professional debut in a League game at Caen."

Yet Lazarazu was not to continue up front. Early in 1989 coach Didier Couecou asked him to consider a switch to left-back.

"Couecou believed I had the qualities to be an adventurous sort of full-back," says Lizarazu.

"As it was my only chance of a place, I agreed to a change."

Lizarazu's retreat into defence proved a considerable success. He became a permanent fixture in the No. 3 shirt and his left-flank attacking was one of the main features of Bordeaux's runners-up spot in the 1989-90 championship race.

His reward was the first of 13 Under-21 caps, but heartbreak was just around the corner.

By the spring of 1991, Bordeaux's debts had grown to £24 million and they were banished to the Second Division by League officials. Lizarazu hoped to join Monaco, but there were three years left on his contract and his board refused to release him.

"I could have understood Bordeaux's relegation if it had been due to poor displays on the pitch," he complains.

"We were demoted because of the club's financial problems, and for the players the decision to send us down was hard to accept."

Fortunately, Lizarazu's career did not suffer unduly. Bordeaux bounced back at the first attempt and today they are once more a force.

"I have fulfilled both my objectives for this season," says Lizarazu.

"Bordeaux have been among the championship front-runners and I've become a full French international. Everything is going my way."

In the mood . . . Lizarazu beats Eric Sikora of Lens.

RESULTS

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 2

WEEKEND

MARSEILLE 5 (Boksic 4, 63, 88, Sauzee 12, Voller 37)
STRASBOURG 0
Att: 28,000.

MONACO 2 (Klinsmann 9, Djorkaeff 77 pen)
VALENCIENNES 1 (Burruchaga 14). **Att:** 3,000.

AUXERRE 1 (Cocard 53)
PARIS SG 2 (Guerin 48, Reynaud 78). **Att:** 17,000.

BORDEAUX 3 (Lizarazu 3, Salaun 60, 87)
LILLE 0. **Att:** 15,000.

NANTES 1 (Guyot 49)
CAEN 1 (Dedebant 77). **Att:** 20,070.

ST ETIENNE 2 (G. Passi 43, Lambert 48)
SOCHAUX 0. **Att:** 12,621.

LENS 2 (Omam-Biyik 42, Laigle 69)
MONTPELLIER 0. **Att:** 15,510.

NIMES 2 (Cartier 68 o.g, Martel 78)
METZ 2 (Kubik 37 pen, Chaouch 90). **Att:** 5,114.

LE HAVRE 2 (Delaunay 13, Gourouli 80)
LYON 0. **Att:** 6,013.

TOULON 2 (Anziani 27, 89)
TOULOUSE 0. **Att:** 3,000.

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marseille	36	22	9	5	68	32	53
Paris SG	36	19	11	6	57	25	49
Monaco	36	19	9	8	49	24	47
Bordeaux	36	16	12	8	37	22	44
Nantes	36	16	11	9	50	34	43
Auxerre	36	18	5	13	56	43	41
St Etienne	36	12	17	7	29	21	41
Strasbourg	36	11	15	10	54	54	37
Lens	36	11	15	10	33	39	37
Caen	36	13	8	15	52	50	34
Lyon	36	9	15	12	37	40	33
Metz	36	10	13	13	39	43	33
Montpellier	36	11	11	14	32	38	33
Toulouse	36	8	16	12	32	40	32
Sochaux	36	11	9	16	32	48	31
Le Havre	36	10	10	16	40	43	30
Lille	36	7	15	14	24	45	29
Valenciennes	36	8	11	17	39	53	27
Toulon	36	6	13	17	26	50	25
Nimes	36	3	15	18	32	64	21

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 9

WEEKEND

CAEN 2 (Sauzee 7 o.g, Paille 47)
MARSEILLE 3 (Pele 27, 83, Boksic 63). **Att:** 8,737.

PARIS SG 1 (Fournier 81)
MONACO 0. **Att:** 35,000.

VALENCIENNES 1 (C. Robert 5)
BORDEAUX 0. **Att:** 10,532.

STRASBOURG 2 (Keshi 55, Hugues 75)
NANTES 4 (Ferri 32, Vulic 60, N'Doram 62, Ouedec 63). **Att:** 25,511.

MONTPELLIER 1 (Ziober 85)
ST ETIENNE 2 (Pagal 44, Camara 63). **Att:** 8,000.

TOULON 1 (Meyrieu 12)
AUXERRE 2 (Dutuel 26, Martins 68). **Att:** 6,000.

TOULOUSE 0
LENS 0. **Att:** 7,099.

METZ 2 (Chanlot 6, Kubik 30 pen)
LE HAVRE 3 (Tiehi 17, 52, 72). **Att:** 6,291.

LYON 0
NIMES 1 (Vercruysse 62). **Att:** 9,267.

LILLE 0
SOCHAUX 0. **Att:** 5,868.

METZ 1 (Huysman 48)
MONACO 0. **Att:** 9,998.

TOULOUSE 2 (Bancarel 1, 41)
BORDEAUX 0. **Att:** 9,212.

AUXERRE 5 (C. Martins 7, Laslandes 17, 47, 77, Prunier 39)
NIMES 2 (Marx 23, L. Blanc 78 pen). **Att:** 7,000.

LILLE 0
ST. ETIENNE 0. **Att:** 8,208.

MONTPELLIER 1 (Ziober 33)
STRASBOURG 1 (Pouliquen 29). **Att:** 7,139.

LYON 3 (L. Delamontagne 43, Gava 61, Debbah 65)
LENS 1 (R. Boli 52). **Att:** 10,030.

CAEN 2 (Gravelaine 21, 61)
SOCHAUX 0. **Att:** 7,410.

TOULON 1 (Meyrieu 78)
LE HAVRE 2 (Gourouli 69, Tiehi 86). **Att:** 6,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 16

WEEKEND

MARSEILLE 4 (Boksic 8, D. Thomas 52 o.g., Sauzee 71, Voller 87)
LILLE 1 (Assadourian 79). **Att:** 30,000.

BORDEAUX 1 (Dugarry 44)
PARIS SG 1 (Roche 22). **Att:** 30,755.

MONACO 4 (Djorkaeff 19 pen, 90, Gnako 28, Klinsmann 42 pen)
TOULOUSE 0. **Att:** 3,000.

NANTES 3 (Capron 5, N'Doram 43, Pedros 74)
VALENCIENNES 1 (C. Robert 77 pen). **Att:** 13,057.

ST ETIENNE 1 (Camara)
CAEN 1 (Rouissi 28). **Att:** 16,876.

AUXERRE 2 (C. Martin 29, Laslandes 44)
LYON 1 (Garde 71 pen). **Att:** 8,000.

LENS 2 (R. Boli 4, Omam-Biyik 14)
METZ 0. **Att:** 16,603.

SOCHAUX 0
STRASBOURG 0. **Att:** 4,099.

LE HAVRE 1 (Tiehi 40)
MONTPELLIER 1 (Laurey 7). **Att:** 7,488.

NIMES 0
TOULON 1 (Eyraud 38). **Att:** 4,424.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 23

WEEKEND

VALENCIENNES 0
MARSEILLE 1 (Boksic 21). **Att:** 18,102.

PARIS SG 1 (Calderaro 89)
NANTES 0. **Att:** 37,000.

Boksic

LEADING SCORERS

1	**Boksic** (Marseille)	21
2	**Gravelaine** (Caen)	20
3	**Voller** (Marseille)	17
	Klinsmann (Monaco)	17
5	**Weah** (Paris-SG)	14
	Tiehi (Le Havre)	14
7	**Sauzee** (Marseille)	12
	Kubic (Metz)	11
	Leboeuf (Strasbourg)	11
	Ferrer (Toulouse)	11

GERMANY

Bayern's surge draws the fans

ANOTHER spectator boom has been a feature of the Bundesliga season, thanks mainly to the exciting finish in the championship race and to the equally tight struggles against relegation.

Discussions . . . Ribbeck (left) and Matthaus.

The biggest draw were Bayern Munich, average home gates of 44,114, ahead of Borussia Dortmund (39,659) and Schalke (37,503). Bayern also are the great attraction in away games. For the "summit" match at Werder Bremen the 38,000 available tickets had been sold three months in advance.

Some lucky holders advertised their willingness to sell at the black market price of £80, and these were the cheapest seats.

Nurnberg began selling tickets on January 18 for Bayern's visit on May 8. A week later all 46,000 places had gone. "We could have played Bayern three days running and sold out each time," said business manager Sven Jager.

Even modest Borussia Monchengladbach reported that they could have sold of 100,000 tickets for their match against Bayern, in a ground which holds only 34,000.

The average attendance in the Bundesliga is 24,412, the best figure since 1978.

Sadly, Bayern also provided negative headlines with constant rows behind the scenes, yet on the pitch nearly all was well. They now have 12 internationals.

The Bavarians, without the distraction of European competition, were able to concentrate all their energies on the championship, and led the table from the first day.

Vice-president Franz Beckenbauer showed surprise, saying: "I didn't think we would dominate the championship already."

And team manager Erich Ribbeck warns the fans against euphoria: "We are no better than the other top sides, but so far everything has turned in our favour."

Constant speculation about new players has proved unsettling, but the biggest row was sparked by Lothar Matthaus, who fell out first with general manager Uli Hoeness and then with Ribbeck.

Hoeness complained that Matthaus is more interested in Munich's night-life than in Bayern.

"He behaves as if he were the world's No. 1 — unfortunately he is not that on the pitch," claims Hoeness.

Matthaus retorted: "I don't think Hoeness has the right to poke his nose into my private life. I have always lived solidly for football."

Hoeness is criticised in the media for not engaging top strikers when available, such as Brazilian Bebeto and Chilean Ivan Zamorano. Instead he consistently plumped for mediocrity, which is cheaper.

Bayern are not the only club chasing new players. The dethroned champions, VfB Stuttgart, sent general manager Dieter Hoeness (brother of Uli) and team manager Christoph Daum to Czechoslovakia, where they watched several players, and Borussia Dortmund need a striker now that Flemming Povlsen has torn cruciate ligaments.

ARTHUR **ROTMIL**

RESULTS

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 2

MIDWEEK

SCHALKE 0
HAMBURG 0.

BOCHUM 4 (Kempe 12, Aden 67, Christians 81, Boonan 84)
UERDINGEN 1 (Rahner 2).

KARLSRUHE 1 (Bender 1)
KAISERSLAUTERN 1 (Marin 45).

BORUSSIA MG 0
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 3 (Sammer 23, Poschner 45, Chapuisat 83).

LEVERKUSEN 1 (Hoffmann 12)
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 1 (Yeboah 65).

SAARBRUCKEN 0
WATTENSCHEID 1 (Buckmaier 27).

NURNBERG 0
DYNAMO DRESDEN 0.

WERDER BREMEN 4 (Rufer 45, 53 pen, Herzog 68, Hobsch 79)
BAYERN MUNICH 1 (Ziege 29).

VfB STUTTGART 2 (Kienle 51, 77)
KOLN 0.

WEEKEND

EINTRACHT 4 (Yeboah 2, Kruse 18, Bein 41 pen, Weber 81)
KARLSRUHE 1 (Rolff 65). **Att:** 19,000.

DYNAMO DRESDEN 2 (Schmaler 31, Zickler 61)
LEVERKUSEN 0. **Att:** 13,800.

KAISERSLAUTERN 3 (Marin, Vogel 28, Kuntz 43)
BOCHUM 1 (Wegmann 65). **Att:** 30,700.

KOLN 2 (Littbarski 67, 70)
NURNBERG 0. **Att:** 30,000.

UERDINGEN 4 (Laessig 6, 90, Gorlukovitch 17, Peschke 90 pen)
SCHALKE 2 (Muller 63, Sendscheid 73).
Att: 14,000.

BAYERN MUNICH 5 (Helmer 3, Schupp 23, Matthaus 52, 56, Wohlfarth 61)
VfB STUTTGART 3 (Sverrisson 7, Gaudino 37, Strunz 63). **Att:** 56,000.

WATTENSCHEID 2 (Neuhaus 43, Fink 52)
BREMEN 2 (Hobsch 12, Rufer 69). **Att:** 10,000.

DORTMUND 3 (Zorc 8 pen, Sammer 14, 86)
SAARBRUCKEN 0. **Att:** 40,021.

HAMBURG 0
BORUSSIA MG 2 (Kastenmaier 41, Neun 82).
Att: 21,200.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 9

WEEKEND

UERDINGEN 0
HAMBURG 2 (Baeron 15, 74). **Att:** 7,100.

SCHALKE 4 (Borodjuk 46, 50, Sendscheid 81, Muller 85)
KAISERSLAUTERN 0. **Att:** 25,000.

VfL BOCHUM 1 (Wegmann 56)
EINTRACHT 0. **Att:** 23,000.

KARLSRUHE 3 (Bender 59, Novotny 65, Melzig 75)
DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Wagenhaus 77).
Att: 14,000.

LEVERKUSEN 3 (Kirsten 1, 47, Hapal 71)
KOLN 0. **Att:** 27,000.

SAARBRUCKEN 0
BORUSSIA MG 4 (Dahlin 32, Fach 49, Pflipsen 66, Neun 83). **Att:** 25,000.

NURNBERG 0
BAYERN MUNICH 0. **Att:** 50,114.

WERDER BREMEN 1 (Neubarth 36)
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 0.
Att: 40,800.

STUTTGART 4 (Knup 45, 82, Frontzeck 48, Sverrisson 90)
WATTENSCHEID 1 (Neuhaus 69).
Att: 15,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 16

WEEKEND

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 0
SCHALKE 3 (Sendscheid 72, Buskens 77, Mihajlovic 90). **Att:** 24,000.

DYNAMO DRESDEN 0
BOCHUM 0. **Att:** 16,700.

KAISERSLAUTERN 2 (Dooley 80, Vogel 85)
UERDINGEN 1 (Laessig 11).
Att: 28,278.

KOLN 2 (Sturm 48, Keller 70)
KARLSRUHE 0. **Att:** 32,000.

BAYERN MUNICH 4 (Helmer 23, Labbadia 41, Schupp 66, Shou 84)
LEVERKUSEN 1 (Kirsten 47). **Att:** 51,000.

WATTENSCHEID 4 (Tsiskale 55, Emmerling 70, Fink 83, Silberbach 90)
NURNBERG 1 (Wuck 75). **Att:** 7,000.

BORUSSIA DORTMUND 0
STUTTGART 4 (Knupp 7, Strehmel 27, Gaudino 50, Sverrisson 83). **Att:** 42,800.

BORUSSIA MG 3 (Pflipsen 31, Fach 66, Nielsen 68)
WERDER BREMEN 1 (Neubarth 76). **Att:** 31,000.

HAMBURG 2 (Weichert 84, Baron 88)
SAARBRUCKEN 0. **Att:** 13,200.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, 23 MAY

WEEKEND

UERDINGEN 2 (Walz 25, Jueptner 48)
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 5 (Yeboah 3, 34, 52, 86, Anicic 36). **Att:** 5,000.

SCHALKE 2 (Borodjuk 22, Mueller 76)
DRESDEN 0. **Att:** 31,700.

BOCHUM 0
KOLN 0. **Att:** 41,021.

KARLSRUHE 4 (Carl 23, 34, Rolff 45, Schutterle 48)
BAYERN MUNICH 2 (Mazihno 65, Ziege 90).
Att: 40,000.

LEVERKUSEN 3 (Kirsten 44, Scholz 82, Hoffmann 90)
WATTENSCHEID 1 (Fink 75). **Att:** 11,000.

SAARBRUCKEN 0
WERDER BREMEN 4 (Neubarth 10, Kohn 32, 59, Herzog 89). **Att:** 16,000.

NURNBERG 1 (Eckstein 32)
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 2 (Sammer 55, 60).
Att: 43,000.

HAMBURG 2 (Weichert 38, Von Hessen 42)
KAISERSLAUTERN 2 (Haber 66, Zeyer 71).
Att: 14,100.

STUTTGART 3 (Knup 6, Gaudino 20, Dubajic 90)
BORUSSIA MG 2 (Wynhoff 36, Klinert 51).
Att: 45,000.

BUNDESLIGA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	32	17	10	5	68	41	44
Werder Bremen	32	17	10	5	55	30	44
Bor. Dortmund	32	18	5	9	60	38	41
Ein. Frankfurt	32	14	12	6	56	38	40
Leverkusen	32	12	12	8	58	44	36
Karlsruhe	32	12	11	9	55	54	35
VfB Stuttgart	32	11	12	9	52	46	34
Kaiserslautern	32	12	9	11	48	37	33
Borussia MG	32	12	9	11	57	54	33
Schalke	32	11	11	10	38	38	33
Hamburg	32	8	15	9	41	37	31
Wattenscheid	32	10	8	14	45	62	28
Dyn. Dresden	32	7	12	13	31	46	26
Nurnberg	32	9	8	15	25	44	26
Koln	32	11	3	18	39	50	25
Bochum	32	7	10	15	41	48	24
Saarbrucken	32	5	13	14	35	63	23
Uerdingen	32	6	8	18	34	68	20

LEADING SCORERS

1 ..... **Kirsten** (Leverkusen) 18
Yeboah (Francfurt) 18
3 ..... **Chapuisat** (Dortmund) 15
Rufer (Werder) 15
5 ..... **F. Walter** (Stuttgart) 13

SWITZERLAND

Keeper Marco in top form

THE Swiss national team took a giant stride towards qualifying for the World Cup when they beat their closest rivals, Italy, 1-0 in Bern.

They estimate they need another three points from the remaining three games — against Estonia at home, Scotland and Portugal away — to reach their first finals for 28 years.

A lot of the credit must go to team manager Roy Hodgson who, since taking over in January 1992, has done wonders for the Swiss morale.

He has extinguished the depressing inferiority complex which dogs so many Swiss sportsmen.

Hodgson says: "I have persuaded my players to always believe they have a chance."

He is also a great believer in continuity — nine men have taken part in six or all seven World Cup qualifiers.

A flexible 4-4-2 system, with two strikers, a defensive midfield organiser, a ball-winning all-rounder, plus zonal marking by a flat back four, has been spot on. He has now extended his contract till 1996.

The win against Italy was crucial and the Swiss were undoubtedly helped by Dino Baggio's dismissal just before half-time.

Switzerland's heroes were goalkeeper Marco Pascolo, ironically Italian-born, who produced several world-class saves, and brilliant midfielder Ciriaco Sforza, who has just signed for Germany's Kaiserslautern.

The national side have now established two records: they are unbeaten in ten matches and have, for the first time, played seven successive World Cup ties without defeat.

In the championship, unfashionable FC Aarau took over the lead despite the suspension of the top scorer, Bulgarian Petar Aleksandrov.

Austrian team manager Rolf Fringer, a relative newcomer, preaches attacking football, but remains realistic: "I shall be happy if we can reach a UEFA Cup place."

HOLLAND

Van Gaal keeps calm

AJAX have ended the season on a low note, with too many bad performances for a club of their standing.

Even Dennis Bergkamp was taken off the field for only the second time in his career — four days after his brilliant goal against England at Wembley!

That was enough to get some anxious supporters asking manager Louis Van Gaal where Ajax stood now that Bergkamp and Wim Jonk had been transferred to Internazionale.

Van Gaal may not be everyone's friend, but he knows what he's doing. There is no other Bergkamp in the soccer world. Trying to find one would be the equivalent of searching for a new Gascoigne: finding a replacement for Jonk was not difficult.

Van Gaal moved in for John Van Den Brom, the Vitesse Arnhem midfielder, and got him for around £1 million. Two years ago he had signed what was described as a "super contract" with Vitesse, for 16 years!

Frank de Boer, the international defender who still had two years of his contract to run, received a better offer in a contract that — on paper — ties him to Ajax until 1997.

Ajax may have a few millions to spend, thanks to Inter, but

In control . . . Louis Van Gaal.

Van Gaal is no man to rush around the market. He is putting a lot of faith in up-and-coming youngsters.

One is Marc Overmars, the 20-year-old whose speed and zig-zag approach to the penalty box had much to do with the penalty Des Walker presented to Holland in that 2-2 Wembley draw.

Overmars has the ability to play with both feet, plus a sprinter's speed at the right time and in the right place. Then there is Clarence Seedorf, 17 and already an international.

Down south, Erwin Koeman, the 31-year-old midfielder who has just completed his third season with PSV, has signed for one more year.

This could be the last chance for Koeman, one of the most experienced players in the club, to help build what is best described as a new PSV team with 11 players who fight for each other.

Transfers, of course, are not only for players. Coaches are on the move, too.

Theo Vonk, who just over a year ago surprisingly decided to quit FC Twente, is back in Holland, with a two-year contract at Groningen.

His Spanish adventure with Burgos ended in disaster when he was kicked out halfway through the season.

Cambuur, who have taken on Jimmy Calderwood as assistant manager, will have an interesting pre-season period. They go to Mexico to play in a tournament from July 24 to August 7.

Sunny days for Scotsman Jimmy.

ERIC **NICHOLLS**

AUSTRIA

Bright burst by Wacker

AUSTRIA SALZBURG continued their march at the top, but the most improved team in recent weeks proved to be Admira/Wacker.

A German trio, manager Sigi Held, striker Olaf Marschall and libero Uwe Muller, have turned the Viennese outfit into serious championship contenders. With 66 goals in 31 games they scored more than any other team; Marschall is the second top marksman with 18, just behind Innsbruck's Vaclav Danek.

Rumours now circulating in Vienna suggest that Held may be leaving at the end of the season. He is said to have been offered a fat contract by FK Austria, but is neither confirming nor denying.

FK, disappointing since the start of the play-off phase, woke up in the traditional derby against Rapid and won 5-1.

International midfielder Peter Stoger, back after a five-week injury-enforced absence, inspired his colleagues and scored the first and last goals.

As for poor old Rapid, recent displays mean that they probably will miss a UEFA Cup place, having dropped down into the lower half of the table.

ARTHUR **ROTMIL**

BELGIUM

Meeuws quits after Euro blow

WHAT was supposed to be a joyful occasion turned out to be a real "soap opera": the town hall reception after Antwerp's Wembley final proved to be a PR disaster.

Defeat against Parma was no disgrace, but after that things went wrong. During the press conference, just before the reception on the Town Hall balcony, a row emerged between coach Walter Meeuws and chairman Eddy Wouters.

During the conference Wouters announced that Meeuws still had not signed a new contract, mentioned the terms the club offered him, then gave an ultimatum: sign now or this offer is off.

The coach was shell-shocked. He said he knew nothing of the offer, and felt that revealing the details was very bad manners. Then he left the conference, clearly very upset, waved for some minutes to the crowd under the balcony, and disappeared.

Nobody was surprised when he signed a contract with Gent some days later. Only two days after this Antwerp qualified for Europe again. They beat Liege 4-1 to finish fifth.

Lokeren were relegated after 20 years, with Boom — who won promotion only last year. Second Division champions, Seraing, and Ostende, who won the play-offs, replace them.

JAN-HERMEN **DE BRUIJN**

Vitesse aim to join the big boys

A DREAM looks like having a chance of coming true for Vitesse, the Premier Division club in Arnhem.

Vitesse are beginning to add action to their words of hope, and have government approval to build a multi-functional stadium reckoned to cost around £43 million.

There is no question of running around with caps out to collect donations.

The project is being financed by a top German company, Philip Holzmann, and Vitesse chairman Karel Aalbers believes that the new stadium will bring in up to £7 million a year in gate receipts.

This will come from 365 business seats and 28 special boxes as well as those who pay normal money for normal seats in the 30,000-seat arena.

The club dream is to join the top outfits in Holland and to progress in the same direction in Europe.

Many outside Holland may well ask: Arnhem? Who are they? Ask Dundee United.

Two years ago they were knocked out of the UEFA Cup by Vitesse, then led by a former Player of the Year in England, Frans Thijssen.

Now Vitesse have Hans Gillhaus, the striker who walked out of Aberdeen, and have signed Andrei Piatnitski, a 25-year-old midfielder from Moscow Spartak. They are in next season's UEFA Cup again, too.

PORTUGAL

Paulo's future on the line

BENFICA stepped up their bid for the Portuguese championship just as speculation was stepped up about the future of controversial Paulo Futre.

With two games remaining, Benfica were one point behind champions FC Porto after thrashing Maritimo 5-1. Rui Aguas grabbed a hat-trick for Benfica, who also are due to face Boavista in the Cup Final.

As for Porto, they held their lead by defeating Guimaraes 2-0 with goals from Emil Kostadinov. Sporting kept third place thanks to the goals of Jorge Cadete, whose 17 make him the leading marksman in the league — followed, on 12, by Maritimo's Jorge Andrade and Boavista's Artur and Ricky.

The Futre situation is confused. Indeed, whether Benfica win the championship may decide his immediate future. Futre has been dissatisfied with his personal form since he returned to Portugal amid so much controversy from Atletico Madrid at the start of February. His brother/manager, Artur, had lengthy talks with Benfica's directors and said: "The best thing for Paulo is to complete his contract. But it would be wrong to deny that several clubs abroad have made inquiries."

Futre apparently considers he is better staying where he is. He said: "I came to Benfica in one of their worst periods ever. I've had some bad luck, but that's all. As for the future . . . anything could happen."

RINO **LANDA**

TABLES

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV Eindhoven	33	22	6	5	79	32	50
Feyenoord	32	20	9	3	75	32	49
Ajax	32	18	9	5	80	28	45
Vitesse Arnhem	33	15	14	4	56	28	44
FC Twente	33	16	8	9	61	39	40
MVV	32	15	7	10	49	42	37
FC Volendam	33	12	12	9	49	32	36
FC Utrecht	33	12	11	10	43	38	35
Willem II	33	12	8	13	40	36	32
RKC	33	11	9	13	45	55	31
FC Groningen	33	9	11	13	31	44	29
Roda JC	33	10	7	16	47	57	27
Sparta	33	8	11	14	34	61	27
Cambuur	33	6	13	14	39	54	25
GA Eagles	33	8	9	16	34	60	25
Fortuna Sittard	32	7	6	19	32	70	20
Den Bosch	33	6	8	19	34	78	20
SVV/Dordrecht	33	4	10	19	26	68	18

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Salzburg	32	17	10	5	61	32	30
Austria Wien	32	18	6	8	66	34	28
Innsbruck	32	14	11	7	58	30	25
Admira Wacker	32	16	5	11	66	44	25
Rapid Wien	32	13	9	10	50	46	22
St. Polten	32	9	14	9	44	47	21
Sport Wien	32	13	5	14	38	61	18
Vorwarts	32	12	5	15	35	48	16

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Aarau	10	6	3	1	12	3	27
Young Boys	10	4	2	4	13	11	24
Servette	10	4	2	4	11	13	24
Lugano	10	5	2	3	14	8	23
Sion	10	3	2	5	10	15	21
FC Zurich	10	3	3	4	6	9	21
Lausanne	10	3	2	5	10	14	20
Neuchatel	10	2	4	4	10	13	19

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Porto	32	22	6	4	56	17	50
Benfica	32	21	7	4	55	17	49
Sporting	32	16	10	6	54	27	42
Boavista	32	13	11	8	43	31	37
Maritimo	32	14	7	11	53	44	35
Farense	32	11	11	10	39	33	33
Beira-Mar	32	10	11	11	24	32	31
Estoril	32	9	11	12	29	40	29
Guimaraes	32	13	3	16	37	49	29
Famalicao	32	10	9	13	28	44	29
Pacos Ferreira	32	9	11	12	30	40	29
Braga	32	11	6	15	29	31	28
Gil Vicente	32	11	6	15	32	42	28
Espinho	32	9	9	14	37	52	27
Salgueiros	32	9	8	15	25	43	26
Tirsense	32	9	8	15	25	36	26
Chaves	32	4	7	21	32	47	15

NORTHERN IRELAND — *Final Table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
LINFIELD	30	20	6	4	49	15	66
Crusaders	30	21	3	6	53	27	66
Bangor	30	20	4	6	61	32	64
Portadown	30	18	9	3	70	26	63
Distillery	30	20	2	8	60	36	62
Glenavon	30	14	6	10	48	36	48
Glentoran	30	13	8	9	70	40	47
Ards	30	12	9	9	45	45	45
Carrick	30	12	1	16	50	73	38
Ballymena	30	10	6	14	41	51	36
Cliftonville	30	10	3	17	42	48	33
Omagh	30	9	5	16	38	57	32
Larne	30	9	3	18	41	59	30
Newry	30	5	5	20	30	72	20
Coleraine	30	5	3	22	28	63	18
Ballyclare	30	2	6	22	28	75	12

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ANDERLECHT	34	26	6	2	80	24	58
Standard	34	18	9	7	69	43	45
Mechelen	34	18	6	10	53	33	42
Waregem	34	17	7	10	76	46	41
Antwerp	34	17	7	10	61	42	41
Club Brugge	34	16	8	10	49	32	40
Charleroi	34	16	8	10	58	46	40
Beveren	34	15	7	12	46	41	37
Gent	34	12	10	12	51	51	34
RWDM	34	10	11	13	39	45	31
Lierse	34	12	7	15	41	51	31
Cercle Bruges	34	9	10	15	65	73	28
Liege	34	10	8	16	48	71	28
Ekeren	34	10	7	17	56	66	27
Genk	34	8	11	15	37	50	27
Lommel	34	10	3	21	43	77	23
Lokeren	34	4	12	18	32	58	20
Boom	34	6	7	21	40	95	19

Belgium's Marc Degryse

GREECE

By LOU ECONOMOPOULOS

The pride and the passion

EVERYBODY knew that in past World Cups it would take something remarkable for Greece to qualify. This time, it would take something remarkable for Greece not to do so.

The Greeks need only one point from their three remaining matches, against Russia (twice) and Luxembourg, to be absolutely sure of taking one of the two qualifying places available in Group Five. Even then, coach Alketas Panagoulias and his squad would be 90 per cent certain to go through, depending on Hungary's results.

The FIFA ban on Yugoslavia, as a result of the conflict there, did not necessarily work in Greece's favour, according to Panagoulias.

"Even though they were unable to take part, we still had to face two football institutions — Hungary and Russia," he said.

"Hungary are not the team they used to be, but they are still Hungary. Many of their players are with top clubs.

"The same applies to Russia, still one of the strongest teams in Europe. "But what has happened is now in the past. We are in with a great chance of going through to the United States next year, and we do not intend to let that chance slip by."

He added: "The dark days have ended for Greek soccer. We have not conquered the planet just by taking nine points from our first five games in the group, and we need to do a lot more work, but I can safely say that we have opened the way for worldwide recognition."

This attitude has spread through to the players. The oldest of them, Tasos Mitropoulos, 36, says: "Things have changed for the better. We have a more professional approach, with good teamwork and everybody working for the others. Panagoulias has made us appreciate that we are no longer among the poor of Europe."

Success is being reflected in attendances, with the team attracting more spectators than ever before.

There were 48,000, a record, for the 0-0 draw with Hungary in Salonika, and Panagoulias says: "Even though that result was disappointing, the crowd applauded enthusiastically. So did those who travelled to the away victories in Iceland and Hungary. If you're winning, people will support you.

"A national team coach must inspire his men, so that they have enthusiasm and faith and a burning desire to be in the national side.

"A coach should be able to make his men into ambassadors for the nation they represent.

"I've tried to do this, and now I'm getting messages back. They tell me 'Don't worry, we want to excel, we want to be part of history.' And they're going to be."

Panagoulias, now 58, coached the Greek team to the European Championship in 1980, during his first spell in charge.

He has lived in the United States for many years — he has a home in a town called Vienna, in Virginia — but has been based full-time in Greece, his homeland, since being reappointed to the national job last year.

He recalls the 1980 adventure by saying: "We had to play giants — West Germany, the Czechs and Holland. Everyone was afraid we

Greeks out to cause more surprises

THE MANAGER

Alketas PANAGOULIAS. Aged 58.

Joined the national team last year after serving in the same position from 1971 to 1981, the longest period ever for a national coach in Greece. During his tenure, Greece reached the European Championship finals in Italy in 1980 for the first time. In 1983 he coached Team America in the North American Soccer League. He also guided the US national team from 1982 to 1985 for both the 1984 Olympic Games and the 1986 World Cup qualifiers. He coached Olympiakos of Piraeus to consecutive championships in 1981-82 and 1986-87 and won the Super Cup in 1987.

would lose each game by seven or eight goals. I told them that we could be the surprise of the tournament, and we were. We lost to the Dutch by a single goal, and drew 0-0 with the Germans.

"The same sort of situation could apply now. We can substitute passion for inexperience, and after all the stress involved in qualifying for the US the players will be able to express themselves better on the pitch.

"There will be a lot of support from the large Greek-American communities over there, and I'm very hopeful that we'll have a very good World Cup . . . but first let's make 100 per cent sure of getting there."

THE PLAYERS

Antonis MINOU.
Goalkeeper.
Aged 35 (born May 4, 1958).
The regular goalkeeper at AEK Athens and with nine caps. A serious and responsible athlete with strong character, and contributes a lot with his experience.

Costas HANIOTAKIS.
Goalkeeper.
Aged 25 (born July 19, 1968).
Young, aggressive and daring Cretan, who plays for the First Division club on the island, OFI. Full of potential, with four international appearances.

Stratos APOSTOLAKIS.
Defender.
Aged 29 (born May 11, 1964).
One of the best players the in the last decade, right-back of Panathinaikos and formerly of Olympiakos. Fast, skilled and experienced, famed for his attacking qualities. Has 52 international appearances and two goals.

Yiannis KALITZAKIS.
Defender.
Aged 27 (born December 10, 1966).
The strongest stopper in the Greek League, and an excellent player who gives everything he can to win his personal battle. He plays for Panathinaikos and has 29 caps.

Kyriakos KARATAIDIS.
Defender.
Aged 28 (born July 4, 1965).
Another strong defender from Olympiakos. His playing ability extends to other areas of responsibility, making him a very precious player. Has played 10 times in the national colours.

Thanasis KOLITSIDAKIS.
Defender.
Aged 27 (born November 21, 1966).
Strong, fast, good header and very determined. The captain of Apollon and a new addition to the national team, having played six times so far.

Stelios MANOLAS.
Defender.
Aged 32 (born July 13, 1962).
The rock of the whole Greek defence. Captain of AEK Athens, one of the oldest players with the national team, and a source of enthusiasm for the rest. He has recorded 61 international appearances and has scored six goals for Greece.

Costas ANTONIOU.
Midfield.
Aged 31 (born on April 19, 1962).
Another member of the old crop of good players, and has been with Panathinaikos since his early days. Very experienced, and makes coaches feel comfortable when they put him in the line-up. He has made 32 appearances with the national team and has scored twice.

Vasilis KARAPIALIS.
Midfield.
Aged 27 (born June 13, 1965).
One of the most skilful players in Greece today, and a former Larissa ace who went to Olympiakos two years ago. Has made a great contribution towards modern Greek soccer, although he has scored only one goal in 19 games.

Spyros MARAGOS.
Midfield.
Aged 26 (born July 3, 1967).
Good technique, excellent fitness and tactical skill make Maragos one of the most useful players of both Panathinaikos and the national team. Has played 14 times.

Tasos MITROPOULOS.
Midfield.
Aged 36 (born August 23, 1957).
The oldest player, still full of passion and determination. The captain, an example for the young players and the moving force of the team. After a distinguished career with Olympiakos he now plays for AEK. Has 65 caps (seven goals).

Nikos NOBLIAS.
Midfield.
Aged 28 (born January 17, 1965).
Directs the traffic in midfield with his artistic talent, running and excellent passing. Captain of OFI, well known for ball control and polished technique. He has played for the national team 26 times and has one goal.

Yiotis TSALOUHIDIS.
Midfield.
Aged 30 (born March 30, 1963).
Strong, hard-running, excellent tackler and header (pictured left). Very determined Olympiakos midfielder with a great contribution to the national side — 51 appearances and 11 goals.

Nikos TSIANTAKIS.
Midfield.
Aged 29 (born October 20, 1963).
Fast, excellent dribbler, and an indispensable member of the team who plays for Olympiakos. (36 appearances, scoring two goals).

Costas FRANTZESKOS.
Midfield.
Aged 24 (born January 3, 1969).
One of the most skilful of the new generation. His excellent passing creates a lot of chances for the strikers. Plays for Panathinaikos and has made five appearances with the national team.

Vasilis DIMITRIADIS.
Forward.
Aged 27 (born February 1, 1966).
Topscorer in the last two seasons in the Greek League. Formerly with Aris Salonica, now at AEK, but has scored only twice in 24 internationals.

Nikos MACHLAS.
Forward.
Aged 20 (born June 16, 1973).
The youngest player, who scored on the first of his appearances with the national team. Strong, aggressive and an excellent header who impressed coach Panagoulias with his fighting spirit.

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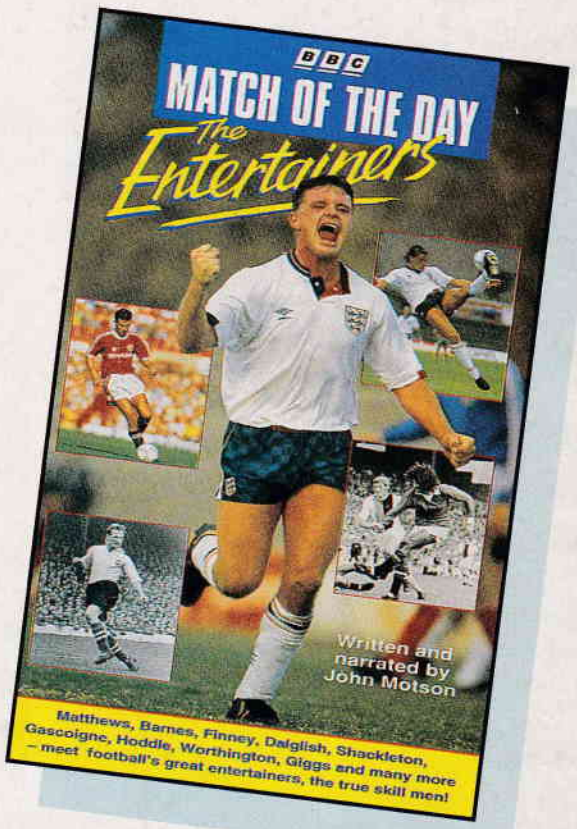

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Q U E S T I O N

Twice voted Young Player of the Year, Manchester United's Ryan Giggs is one of the most exciting stars of the 1990's. He made his full international debut for Wales when he went on as substitute against which country?

ICELAND

If United can, KR can

WILL 1993 be the year to remember for the loyal supporters of KR Reykjavik?

They are Iceland's biggest club, having won 20 championships and seven Cups, but fans have waited a long time for glory — 1968 was the date of their last title victory.

This has been one of the key mysteries in Icelandic soccer, considering all the talented players and managers the club have had in recent years.

But now KR look set to succeed IA of Akranes and take the 1993 championship, though as always it will be a struggle to fulfil high expectations.

Ivan Sochor, the manager of KR, has rather a young team, although the oldest of the players in his squad, the versatile and often-capped Atli Edvaldsson (above), is approaching 36.

The top individual, Runar Kristinsson, is likely to turn professional after the season and move to the continent.

This also could be the case for some other players. But after Manchester United's long-awaited title in the English Premier League, people are saying it's KR's turn.

BJORN **HRAFNSSON**

SWEDEN

IFK are put through the Issa mangle

THE favourite fell early on as the Swedish championship race got going.

IFK Gothenburg stumbled 3-1 to Tom Prhal's Trelleborg, for whom virtually unknown Issa Manglind hit a stunning hat-trick. Manglind was making his debut after being signed from Landskrona.

Shades of Tomas Brolin, who emerged from nowhere in 1990 to score three times against Gothenburg, for Norrkoping.

In terms of strength in depth, however, IFK are in a class of their own in Sweden. Like Milan in Italy, they can rest key players and still field a forceful side. Besides, the fact that they will not be in Europe next autumn could give them an edge over some of their closest rivals.

Already Thomas Ravelli in goal and midfielder Stefan Rehn (left) are dishing out championship stuff.

Rehn in particular looks in great form, having added strength to his considerable skill.

AIK defend their championship with almost an intact line-up, but already their safety-first style has been criticised.

In contrast, Hasse Backe's ever-improving Oster and promoted Helsingborg are doing their best to entertain. HIF usually make a whirlwind start to their games and while they probably will not win the title, the fans are not complaining.

The new 14-team "Allsvenskan" has yet to convince the critics. They fear that the league will split into "upstairs and downstairs" and promoted teams could all find the going tough.

PENTTI **HIETANEN**

REPUBLIC of IRELAND

Charlton 70 not out

JACK CHARLTON (above) will take charge of the Republic of Ireland team for the 70th time when they play Lithuania in Vilnius on June 16.

Big Jack, since his appointment as manager seven years ago, has given soccer a great lift in Ireland and he is revered by the Irish people. But he is 58 and cannot go on for ever.

At club level he has been known to walk out when the fans turned against him. That will not happen in Ireland, but he has said that he will quit if the Republic fail to qualify for next year's World Cup, and make way for a new man.

There have been many calls for summer soccer in Ireland. The rules have not been changed, but this year's League of Ireland Premier Division may not be decided until mid-summer.

After 32 games Bohemians, Cork City and Shelbourne all finished level on 40 points. A "mini-league" between them failed to resolve the issue, and they are now playing each other again at neutral venues.

All this means that the League seem sure to change their rules for next season.

Shelbourne guaranteed themselves a place in Europe next season by winning the FAI Cup, beating Dundalk with a goal by former Queens Park Rangers player Greg Costello. Last season "Shels" won the League for the first time in 30 years. Now they have won the Cup after a 30-year wait.

There will be a new name in the Premier Division next season. Monaghan United beat Waterford in a play-off to clinch the third promotion place.

SEAN **CREEDON**

DENMARK

Youngsters set the pace

DENMARK revived their World Cup hopes with a series of impressive performances.

Home wins against Spain and Latvia were followed by the better of a draw in the Republic of Ireland.

At the heart of the massive improvement are young central defenders Marc Rieper and Jacob Kjeldbjerg, thrown into the deep end following the retirement of Kent Nielsen and the waning of Torben Piechnik at Liverpool.

Rieper, 24, plays his club football with Brondby, while Kjeldbjerg (below), 23, is with the wholly unfashionable Silkeborg. Yet from nowhere they are forging a tough partnership in front of sweeper Lars Olsen.

Niall Quinn's late equaliser was the first World Cup goal the Danes had conceded in seven qualifying games — a formidable record.

Kjeldbjerg is perhaps the more accomplished of the pair, proving a powerful aerial force in defence and attack. The new generation of Danes are forcing their way into other areas of the side as the European Championship winning team is dismantled.

Mark Strudahl, a controversial 24-year-old striker, scored a dynamic goal against the Latvians when introduced in place of the injured Flemming Povlsen. Strudahl has commanded much attention off the field in the last few weeks, walking out on FC Copenhagen, because coach Benny Johansen refused to guarantee him a first-team place.

He had been on loan to the Superliga leaders from a First Division club, Vejle, and DBU rules said he could not go to Naestved on another loan.

So he went to First Division Frem, playing for them in the second leg of a Cup semi-final against OB Odense, having played for FC Copenhagen in the first leg of their semi-final against Aab Aalborg. Players cannot be cup-tied in Denmark, but perhaps it was just as well that both of Strudahl's clubs failed to reach the final.

Strudahl, who has had spells with Borussia Dortmund and Grasshopper Zurich, is hoping for another move abroad, but his reputation for stirring dressing room discontent everywhere he goes is a huge problem.

His talent is unquestioned. But his attitude — he angrily walked out of a meeting with Moller Nielsen when omitted from the squad for the Dublin trip — is too questionable.

Another young striker, Frank Pingel, also was involved in controversy off the pitch, accused of rape after a night-club incident in Copenhagen, but charges were not preferred.

Pingel has been in superb form for Brondby, scoring a hat-trick in their shock 4-0 away win over FC Copenhagen in front of a 16,864 record crowd at the Idraetsparken. That opened up the championship race, with Lars Elstrup's OB also in the shake-up thanks to his 12 goals.

JIM **HOLDEN**

GREECE

Warzycha's a winner

THE jersey worn by Panathinaikos forward Kristof Warzycha was a much sought-after souvenir for hundreds of fans after he led his team to a 1-0 win over Olympiakos in the Greek League Cup final at the Olympic Stadium in Athens.

Warzycha (above) presented his jersey to a young handicapped fan confined for life to a wheelchair.

"This was the best gift I have ever received," the lucky fan said.

Warzycha promised him that if Panathinaikos win the league crown as well, he will give him an entire strip.

That's a promise that the 29-year-old Warzycha, a former Ruch Chorzow player, aims to keep.

Not only did he score the winning goal in the Cup Final, he also is inspiring Panathinaikos to a neck-and-neck battle with AEK Athens for the championship.

Warzycha's goal in a 2-0 away victory against Athinaikos lifted them to within one point. It was the 29th goal of the season for Warzycha, now one behind Vasilis Dimitriadis of AEK Athens, who scored two penalties to lift his team to a 4-0 win at home against Iraklis on the same day.

In the previous match Warzycha scored four to guide his team to a 5-0 rout of Aris Salonica at home. It was the second time this season he has scored four in one match.

"I may have put in the goal, but the entire team won the Cup," is how unselfish Warzycha describes his performance.

"One player can never beat 11 opponents."

Warzycha's contract runs out in December, and he wants to stay.

Panathinaikos caoch Ivica Osim has nothing but praise for him, saying: "Kristof has been our spark all season, and was the key to our Cup performance."

LOU **ECONOMOPOULOS**

ISRAEL

Harazi inspires shock success

THE shock result of World Cup Group six so far was achieved by a beleaguered Israeli squad, who defied all the odds to deal a devastating blow to Bulgaria's hopes.

The Israelis drew 2-2 in Sofia with goals from Ronen Harazi and Ronny Rosenthal.

Only an uncharacteristic miss by Rosenthal in the 72nd minute spared the Bulgarians further embarrassment, and the performances of Betar Jerusalem's Harazi, Ya'akov Schwartz and Eli Ohana have given rise to optimism for the coming games in Sweden and Finland.

Harazi's goal, a superb turn and left-foot drive, confirmed his remarkable rise from the obscurity of Second Division Hapoel Ramat Gan to a championship and Player of the Year award with Betar.

They duly wrapped up the title with a 2-1 win at Natanya, with Dror Kashtean's award of Coach of the Year a just reward for taking Betar from Second Division to top of the First in two seasons.

Betar go into next season's European Champions' Cup, with Maccabi Haifa representing Israel in the Cup-winners' Cup after beating Maccabi Tel Aviv 1-0 in the State Cup final.

Maccabi Tel Aviv finished runners-up, and Betar Tel Aviv are relegated with Hapoel Petah Tikva — who gave Feyenoord a shock in the second round of this year's Cup-winners' Cup.

Maccabi Herzliya and Ironi Ashdod won the two automatic promotion spots and go into the top flight for the first time.

MARK **RIVLIN**

MALTA

Floriana finish first

FLORIANA are Maltese champions for the 25th time, after a 16-year wait.

They dominated from start to finish, winning 13, drawing three and losing only twice.

The Greens conceded only 13 goals and finished five points ahead. Irish striker Brian Crawley, in his first season, scored 12 of the club's 35 goals.

President Anthony Grech Sant, who took over in 1989, has managed to blend a competitive side to see off Valletta and Hamrun Spartans, who finished joint second on 24 points. Valletta beat Hamrun 1-0 in the resulting play-off to book their place in the UEFA Cup.

The FA Trophy also ended Hamrun's hopes of playing in Europe. They were knocked out by Floriana, 7-6 on penalties, as early as the preliminary round.

Ally Dawson's surprising St Andrew's finished fourth by beating lifeless Sliema 2-1.

Hibernians sadly failed to reach their pre-season expectations. A stupid, voluntary punch by Bonello on Hungarian striker Handel set his club on course to a 4-2 defeat by St Andrew's — and out of Europe.

The only consolation in their final 2-1 defeat by Floriana came from the fact that Karl Zacchau's penalty enabled him to equal the best individual scoring feat of 22 goals, set by Stefan Sultana last term. Sultana was second this time, with 18 for Hamrun.

St. George's and Mellieha go down, to be replaced by Zurrieq, who bounce back after only season, and either Marsa or Mqabba.

The national side disappointed again, losing 2-0 at home to Switzerland.

"It was a marked improvement on our showing in Palermo against Italy," commented coach Pippo Psaila, but that was little consolation.

DOMENICO **AQUILINA**

TURKEY

Milne earns giant reward

GORDON MILNE (above) is to carry on coaching in Turkey for a seventh year — easily a record for a foreign coach.

Former Liverpool and England half-back Milne's reward for leading Besiktas in their chase for a fourth successive championship is a new contract worth more than £200,000 a year, plus bonuses.

He also lives rent-free in a luxury home, overlooking the Bhosphorus Bridge, in the exclusive Naide Sultan area of Istanbul.

The previous record term by a foreign coach in Turkey was four seasons, by German Jupp Derwall, with Galatasary, and Yugoslav Branko Stainkovic, who had two years with Fenerbahce and two with Besiktas.

The season boiled up to a tremendous finish, with Galatasaray and Besiktas level on points going into their final game, and Gala leading by two on goal difference.

So Gala could complete a double, even though German coach Kalli Feldkamp has caused a surprise by stepping sideways soon after leading the club to Cup success in his first season.

Feldkamp decided to concentrate on developing younger players, and Rainer Holmann, formerly coach of Carl Zeiss Jena in East Germany, has taken over in charge of the first team.

National coach Sepp Piontek seems sure to quit once compensation has been agreed.

He has a contract until January, but after one win, one draw and 14 defeats he cannot continue in the position.

Piontek is likely to stay in Turkey, however, with Bursaspor keen to take him on.

HASAN **CEMALI**

WALES

From strength to strength

THE inaugural season in the Konica League of Wales, came to an exciting climax and has been very successful, going from strength to strength as the months passed.

Mistakes have been made, but all concerned can be very pleased.

Even more so perhaps when, after a reasonably successful season in exile, Barry Town decided to return to the Welsh system for 1993-94. The success of the Konica's first season, hopefully with European entry being sanctioned, has persuaded Barry that their future lies within the Welsh League system.

They will have to enter at the second level — the Abacus League First Division — and win that if they are to enter the Konica.

Abergavenny Thursdays and Llanidloes Town, the relegated clubs, are replaced by Llansantffraid from the north — if ground improvements during the summer bring their facilities within Konica criteria — and Ton Pentre from the south.

No shocks in the Welsh Cup Final: Cardiff City beat Rhyl 5-0.

Cardiff City pipped Wrexham for the championship of the Third Division and both are promoted to the Second.

MEL AP IOR **THOMAS**

TABLES

ISRAEL — *Final Table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bet. Jerusaslem	32	22	5	6	64	38	71
Mac. Tel Aviv	32	18	8	7	74	36	62
Bnei Yehuda	32	17	5	11	66	57	56
Hap. Beersheba	32	15	9	9	52	36	54
Mac. Haifa	32	12	11	10	55	46	47
Hap. Holon	32	13	5	15	49	49	44
Hap. Haifa	32	11	7	15	42	51	40
Mac. Netanya	32	11	6	16	35	57	39
Hap. Tel Aviv	32	10	8	15	52	64	38
Mac. Pet Tikva	32	9	11	13	43	55	38
Hap. Pet Tikva	32	10	6	17	41	44	36
Bet. Tel Aviv	32	6	7	20	28	60	25

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galatasaray	29	19	6	4	66	21	63
Besiktas	29	18	9	2	65	22	63
Kocaelispor	29	17	7	5	56	30	58
Trabzonspor	29	16	9	4	51	25	57
Fenerbahce	29	17	4	8	72	39	55
Bursaspor	29	11	6	12	39	42	39
Ankaragucu	29	11	4	14	40	51	37
Sariyer	29	10	5	14	39	43	35
Gaziantepspor	29	10	5	14	38	49	35
Genclerbirligi	29	9	8	12	40	53	35
Altay	29	10	4	15	31	39	34
Kayserispor	29	7	11	11	24	36	32
Bakirkoyspor	29	8	5	16	36	45	29
Karsiyaka	29	7	8	14	36	54	29
Aydinspor	29	5	9	15	21	50	24
Konyaspor	29	2	10	17	28	83	16

MALTA — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FLORIANA	18	13	3	2	35	13	29
Hamrun Sptns	18	12	2	5	46	23	24
Valletta	18	10	4	4	32	23	24
St. Andrew's	18	9	4	5	43	30	22
Hibernians	18	9	3	6	45	30	21
Sliema Wand	18	6	3	9	26	31	15
Rabat Ajax	18	6	3	9	30	38	15
Birkirkara	18	5	3	10	22	37	13
St. George's	18	3	4	11	18	44	10
Mellieha	18	2	3	13	14	42	6

YUGOSLAVIA

Fireworks as lucky Red Star win Cup

PARTIZAN BELGRADE had a lead of 12 points over Red Star Belgrade and 17 points over third-placed Vojvodina Novi Sad, several rounds away from the end of the championship.

Nobody expected that Partizan could be so dominant but Red Star could not follow the pace of their Belgrade neighbours, who were fortunate in keeping many of their stars from the previous season while Red Star sold most of theirs to western countries, in particular to Italy.

The title chase was not a very exciting affair, with most of the thrills taking place on the bottom of the ladder, where it now seems certain that Pristina and Borac from Banjaluka will be relegated.

Too many clubs from Belgrade and not enough from large cities in Serbia and Montenegro meant that attendances were down this season.

There were two exceptions — when Red Star and Partizan met in the Yugoslav Cup Final, with Partizan obvious favourites for the double.

In the first game at Partizan's stadium, the hosts squeezed by with a 1-0 victory in front of 40,000 fans. When the two clubs met again, at Red Star's Marakana, there were 60,000 present, despite live TV coverage.

The drama began in the second half when Anto Drobnjak levelled the tie at 1-1 on aggregate. Not long after that Drobnjak was sent off after deliberately handling, but Red Star struggled on and managed to survive until the penalty shoot-out.

The crucial moment was when Partizan's Predrag Mijatovic took his penalty. He missed and Belgrade was set alight with numerous devices prepared by Red Star fans. Some were afraid to go to the Final because of the ease with which one can buy explosive devices in Belgrade, which is very near the Bosnian fronts.

Everything, however, went well, and everybody watching must be forgiven for thinking the good old days of Yugoslav soccer were back.

The reality is much more grim, but as Miljan Miljanic pointed out recently, maybe there is one good thing about the isolation and sanctions imposed on Yugoslavia. Maybe it will help in stopping the exodus of soccer stars from this country.

Miljanic, currently the President of the Yugoslav Football Association, is also devoting a lot of attention to privatisation of the Yugsolav clubs, a very complex process.

One example where the transformation has worked is the Montenegrin club Rudar, from Pljevlja, which was bought by the Volvoks company.

MLADEN **BILIC**

BULGARIA

Press boycott follows surprise defeat

BULGARIA'S 2-0 World Cup win over Finland was greeted by almost a total blackout in the press.

Statistics and line-ups were given, but no match comments or in-depth analysis. Some of Sofia's leading dailies even left open spaces instead of photographs.

Only one publication admitted that this was caused by a rift between the press and the national coach, Dimitar Penev (right).

The trouble began at the away match against Austria. More than 70 journalists were with the team in Vienna, expecting at least a draw. When Austria won 3-1, with surprising ease, ugly words began to fly in the Bulgarian camp.

The main culprits in the eyes of the press were Bulgaria's "arrogant" west-based professionals.

Such as Barcelona's Hristo Stoichkov were openly blamed for defeat. The pampered superstars clearly were not pulling their weight, according to the writers.

One man not prepared to swallow such accusations, Valencia's Ljuboslav Penev, launched a bitter verbal attack against journalists. His views were supported by the manager, Dimitar Penev — who is the player's uncle — turning the matter into something much more serious than just another lightweight scuffle.

The press claim that they will keep on boycotting the national team as

long as there is no apology from either Penev. "The players should realise that it is not always easy to comment about matches," one paper wrote.

In the League championship Levski have drawn away from CSKA and Botev Plovdiv and cannot be caught.

Guetov, on 15, leads the goalscorers, and it only remains to be seen if CSKA can maintain a two-point advantage over Botev to take their place in the UEFA Cup.

The level of attendances is worrying everybody.

Once, a full Levski Stadium could be expected for a derby. Now just 5,000 come when, for example, the leaders entertain Lok.

Just to make the game even less attractive to the spectators, Lok fielded their reserves!

Even more disappointing was the number at the Slavia v CSKA encounter, just 1,000.

All they got for their money were two penalties, and after the 1-1 draw there was a demonstration and demands for refunds.

A curiosity elsewhere was the Chernomorets goal in the home 3-1 defeat by Lok Plovdiv — a shot from 55 yards which bounced in front of the visiting keeper and over him into the empty net.

Rather more than this is needed to bring the crowds back. Qualifying for the US and some success in Europe for example.

Memories of better days were awakened by the erecting of a statue of "Gundy" Asparuchov outside the Levski Stadium on what would have been the 50th birthday of the nation's greatest footballer — tragically killed in a car accident at the height of his fame.

BOB **VAUGHAN**

BOSNIA

Velez lead the way

IN previous issues of *WORLD SOCCER* we mentioned the emerging soccer entities in war-torn Bosnia, and the efforts to keep soccer alive in Muslim and Serb controlled parts of this former Yugoslav republic.

Bosnian Croats also are trying to organise soccer in the self-proclaimed Herceg-Bosna state within Bosnia.

Two former stars of Velez, Jadranko Topic and Marjan Kvesic, became Bosnian-Croat leaders in the civil war, which recently devastated their city of Mostar.

They also focused their attention on changing the name of the club, now known as Zrinjski.

The club's players are not able to train in Mostar, and their stadium recently was used as a detention camp for Mostar Muslims.

Velez, once famous for the BMW trio — Serb Bajevic, Muslim Maric and Croat Wladic — is now purely Croat and Zrinjski are training at Medjugorje near Mostar.

The club played a number of matches with Croatian teams and the plan is to strengthen Zrinjski enough so that they can join the Croatian League.

MACEDONIA

Vardar double

THE champions of the Macedonian League were decided a long time ago.

Vardar, throughout the second part of the league competition, have managed to keep a margin of 15 points between themselves and their nearest competitors, Sileks, Pelister and Balkan, who are hoping to secure a place in Europe next season.

This will be the first international outing for clubs from the youngest European state now officially named the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, or FYR Macedonia.

Macedonia is the only former Yugoslav Republic enjoying warm sports relations with Serbia and Montenegro.

This explains why many Serbs are playing an important role with clubs such as Vadar and Pelister, and why big Yugoslav matches, like those between Red Star and Partizan, are broadcast by Macedonian TV stations.

One Serb who has had a huge impact in Macedonia is Sasa Cirkovic, who scored 24 goals in the first 24 matches in this year's championship.

But he did not manage to score in the Final of the first Macedonian Cup.

Vardar, at their new stadium in Skopje, and in front of 30,000 fans, scored a 1-0 victory against Pelister. The only goal on this historic occasion was scored by Savov, and Macedonian President Fligorov was on hand to present the trophy.

MLADEN **BILIC**

ROMANIA

World Cup hopes fading

CORNEL DINU'S World Cup hopes are not quite so high with Belgium taking another two points, from the Faroes, and a tricky game with the Czechs in prospect in Kosice.

The Czecho-Slovak chances are not good but should coach Dinu's squad lose, Wales will be back in the frame and relishing ties with the CSR in early September and Romania in mid-November — all a far cry from the thrashing the Welsh were given a year ago in Bucharest.

On the League front it is still neck and neck between Steaua and Dinamo. After 28 games, both had exactly the same record — 21 wins, two defeats and 68 goals for and 17 against.

"U" Craiova trail a point behind but that should suffice for a UEFA Cup place with Rapid a comfortable fourth ahead of "E" Craiova, who lost 3-1 at Bacau, who are now named Selena.

At the bottom, Resita are doomed on 15 points and either FC Ploesti or Selena look favourites to join them in "Divizie B".

Promoted Progresul have rallied, their 2-0 victory over Resita meaning demotion for the latter and salvation for the former.

BOB **VAUGHAN**

CZECH REPUBLIC

Sparta aim for a treble

AN EMPHATIC 4-1 win at the Juliska re-established Sparta at the top of the "All Czecho-Slovak Tabulka", as the last days of the combined League approach and football moves towards separatism.

Before that happens there is also the matter of the national and combined Cups.

In Bohemia/Moravia, Sparta await the winners of the counterpart Slovak competition to see who they will have to face in June in the ultimate "All Nation" Final, planned to take place in Middle Slovakia.

FC Boby Brno were beaten at home by Sparta, who could be on for a triple of Championship, Czech Cup and Czecho-Slovak Cup.

Winning the League and qualifying for the Champions' Cup remain the priority, and six out of the last eight points should do the trick.

Only Slavia and possibly Slovan can catch the leaders, while at the bottom Dukla Prague and Bohemians, 1-0 losers in Ostrava, occupy what normally would be relegation positions.

Reorganisation and "stocking up" the new Czech League will save the Ex-Army team and the "Greens" from Vrsovice, who will be joined in 1993-94 by the likes of Viktoria Zizkov, leaders of the Bohemian First Division, Cheb, Drnovice and Plzen.

Whether interest will be greater with more "Derbies" is doubtful.

Recent gates at Slavia, Olomouc, Ostrava, Dukla and Brno on a typical weekend with reasonable weather did not top 35,000, despite the travelling support of Sparta and an above average 14,000 for Boby's Moravian derby game with Vitkovice.

On the international front the forthcoming World Cup match in Kosice could finally bury manager Vaclav Jezek's hopes of leading his side to the United States next summer.

Goalkeepers Stejskal (left) and Miklosko have given the national team the thumbs down and St Etienne's Moravcik seems fit and interested when the "Greens" are in action in the French championship, but not when the call to the CSR colours comes from Prague.

Will it be different when Czechs and Slovaks officially each have their own national team? The answer probably will be available in late autumn when the World Cup campaign is concluded, almost certainly unsuccessfully.

BOB **VAUGHAN**

HUNGARY

Lipcsei lands a vital score

FERENCVAROS, virtually out of contention for the championship, and Haladas, favourites to return to the First Division, contest the Hungarian Cup Final — a two-leg affair for the first time.

Defending champions Ferencvaros lost three games in a row, one of them by 4-3 to MTK.

But in the Cup semi-final the green-and-whites survived. They drew 1-1 in the first leg, Laszlo Vukovics scoring a late equaliser, and won the return 1-0 through a goal by Peter Lipcsei.

Haladas, managed by Under-21 coach Robert Glazer, also squeezed into the final by a single goal after losing the second leg 3-1 at Bekescsaba, the most improved team this season.

Jozsef Pazstor is relatively inexperienced but has done wonders with his promoted squad, who climbed to fifth in the championship with four games to go, having lost only once at home. That gave greater impetus to their next visitors, Vac FC-Samsung, leaders since before the end of the autumn season.

Janos Csank, the Vac supremo, previously coached at Bekescsaba, the county seat of what is known as "Stormy Corner" — an area where peasant movements and land struggles are centuries old.

Csank is on the verge of his greatest success: guiding Vac to their first major trophy and taking the championship away from Budapest for the first time in ten years.

A 1-0 success over Csepel-Kordax at home, where Vac have dropped only four points all season, left them with a lead of three points (four when goal difference is included) over Kispest-Honved with four rounds remaining.

Off the pitch another title is in dispute: 17 nominations have been received for the position of president of the Hungarian FA, to be chosen at the June 26 congress.

Mihaly Laczko is seeking re-election, with Lajos Pozse, general manager of the Hungarian Gaming Company, and former Vasas player Ignac Iszo, now a lawyer, his main rivals.

BRIAN **O'SULLIVAN**

SLOVAKIA

Slovan slipping

DESPITE Slovan Bratislava's victories in the home game with Ceske Budejovice and against Inter across the road, they trail Slavia by a point and Sparta by three.

Which means, at best, "only" UEFA Cup football at the Tehelne Pole next season when the retiring, penultimate "All Czecho-Slovak" champions should find Slovak National League football rather less demanding.

Dubovsky, second leading goal scorer behind Kuka of Slavia, seems likely to be staying after all, despite the interest in Italy, Germany and Spain.

Early season challengers Dunajska Streda now have to depend on winning the Slovak Cup for a place in Europe, having slipped back to fourth.

In the Slovak Second Division, FC Kosice's lead is down to a point but Banska Bystrica, Zilina, Prievidza, Humenne and Senec or Lokomotiva Kosice look likely to be the promoted sides in the future set-up, a 12-strong championship.

Off the field there may be concern about the FA's ability to get the new league off the ground, as well as providing the support for the Venglos/Kocian tandem which will need some friendly fixtures before the Euro '96 campaign beings.

The FA hope to attract "a big name" for the first official international in democratic times, but whether or not a match can be arranged with England, France, Germany, Italy or Spain remains to be seen.

Jozef Venglos looks likely to be busy not only on the training ground but also on his office and home telephones.

BOB **VAUGHAN**

Dubovsky . . . staying with Slovan.

TABLES

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lévski	28	21	6	1	72	24	48
CSKA	28	16	7	5	57	25	39
Botev	28	15	6	7	50	29	36
Lok. Sofia	28	11	12	5	51	36	34
Lok. Plovdiv	28	14	5	9	51	29	33
Pirin	28	12	7	9	29	27	31
Etur	28	11	9	8	33	34	31
Chernomorets	28	10	7	11	30	30	27
Lok. GO	28	9	9	10	27	32	27
Beroe	28	9	8	11	26	31	26
Yantra	28	10	4	14	33	47	24
Spartak	28	8	7	13	27	44	23
Dobrudja	28	9	4	15	30	50	22
Slavia	28	7	5	16	35	52	19
Haskovo	28	5	5	18	27	61	15
Sliven	28	6	1	21	25	52	13

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sparta	28	21	2	5	63	23	44
Slavia	27	17	6	4	61	23	40
Slovan	28	18	3	7	54	28	39
Dunajska Streda	28	16	4	8	45	32	36
Sigma Olomouc	28	12	7	9	37	33	31
Banik Ostrava	27	10	10	7	43	32	30
FC Boby Brno	28	12	5	11	38	45	29
Inter	28	13	2	13	42	39	28
TJ Vitkovice	28	9	8	11	28	36	26
Hradec Kralove	28	9	7	12	28	32	25
FC Nitra	28	6	13	9	26	35	25
Tatran Presov	28	8	8	12	34	37	24
Ceske Budejovice	28	8	4	16	30	37	20
Dukla Prague	28	6	5	17	33	67	17
Spartak Trnava	28	3	10	15	22	52	16
Bohemians	28	4	8	16	19	50	16

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vac	27	16	7	4	43	23	39
Kispest	27	16	5	6	47	26	37
Ferencvaros	27	16	3	8	42	26	35
Bekescsaba	27	11	11	5	40	29	33
Videoton	27	14	4	9	38	31	32
MTK	26	11	7	8	45	33	29
Raba	27	9	9	9	35	34	27
Csepel	27	10	6	11	25	30	26
Siofok	27	9	7	11	32	34	25
Pecs	27	10	5	12	31	33	25
Vasas	27	6	12	9	27	30	24
Diosgyor	27	7	9	11	25	38	23
BVSC	27	8	6	13	24	32	22
Ujpest	26	4	11	11	26	36	19
Nyiregyhaza	27	3	12	12	15	34	18
Veszprem	27	5	6	16	21	47	16

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Steaua	29	21	6	2	69	18	48
Dinamo	29	21	5	3	68	18	47
Univ. Craiova	29	14	9	6	44	29	37
Rapid	29	13	8	8	34	28	34
Electro. Craiova	29	12	7	10	30	27	31
Gloria Bistrita	29	13	4	12	37	34	30
Sportul	29	12	6	11	36	37	30
FC Inter Sibiu	29	9	11	9	32	34	29
Univ. Cluj	29	13	2	14	35	37	28
Otelul Galati	29	11	5	13	30	35	27
FC Brasov	29	10	6	13	31	38	26
Farul Constanta	29	11	4	14	43	53	26
Dacia Un. Braila	29	9	7	13	29	42	25
Poli. Timisoara	29	6	12	11	26	40	24
Selena Bacau	29	8	6	15	20	37	22
Progesul	29	7	8	14	29	47	22
Petrolul Ploiesti	29	9	3	17	38	45	21
CSM Resita	29	6	3	20	29	61	15

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rotor Volgograd	12	8	2	2	20	5	18
Spt. Vladikavkaz	13	7	1	5	18	16	15
Moscow Dynamo	11	6	2	3	24	11	14
Torpedo Moscow	12	6	2	4	8	9	14
Moscow Spartak	8	6	1	1	22	6	13
Lok. Moscow	11	5	3	3	12	5	13
Luch Vladivostok	11	4	4	3	7	12	12
Okean Nakhodka	10	4	3	3	8	6	11
Tek. Kamyshin	12	3	5	4	11	13	11
Lok. Novgorod	10	5	2	3	10	14	10
Uralmash	10	4	1	5	8	12	9
Kryla Sovetov	11	3	3	5	11	15	9
CSKA Moscow	10	3	3	4	14	11	9
Rostselmash	10	3	2	5	8	12	8
Dyn. Stavropol	11	2	4	5	5	12	8
Zhem. Sochi	11	2	4	5	11	19	8
Kamaz Chelny	11	3	1	7	11	15	7
Asmaral Moscow	12	2	3	7	6	21	7

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Legia Warsaw	29	17	6	6	42	24	40
Lech Poznan	29	14	11	4	59	22	39
LKS Lodz	29	14	11	4	42	29	39
Ruch Chorzow	29	16	6	7	47	21	38
Widzew Lodz	29	15	8	6	50	33	38
Stal Mielec	29	10	14	5	33	20	34
GKS Katowice	29	11	10	8	44	28	32
Pogon Szczecin	29	11	9	9	29	30	31
Gornik Zabrze	29	9	12	8	36	34	30
Zaglebie Lubin	29	10	9	10	42	30	29
Wisla Krakow	29	9	10	10	44	35	28
Hutnik Krakow	29	6	12	11	32	39	24
Stalka Tarnobrzeg	29	8	8	13	30	38	24
Z. Bydgoszcz	29	9	6	14	31	53	24
Slask Wroclaw	29	9	5	15	30	61	23
Szombierki Bytom	29	7	7	15	27	49	21
Olimpia Poznan	29	6	7	16	24	44	19
J. Bialystok	29	2	5	22	24	76	9

By PAUL **GARDNER**

No pressure!

And not much success either

IF THE United States national team were playing in a league, their 1993 record of 12 games played, one win, seven draws and four defeats would give them a place somewhere near the bottom of the table.

And, if the US national team played in a country where the press paid attention to what is going on, there no doubt would be strident calls for coach Bora Milutinovic's head to roll.

If, if. The reality is another matter.

Nobody is getting too hot under the collar about the team's poor record. Milutinovic (below) smiles comfortably at all and sundry.

Not a word of criticism, not a hint of dissatisfaction comes from his bosses at the United States Soccer Federation. Quite the opposite.

Says USSF President Alan Rothenberg: "I've told Bora that there's no undue pressure to win." All is well.

Which is not as barmy as it seems.

"Right now," says smiling Milutinovic, "results are not so important — it will be more important to win in 1994.

"What's important is to improve and play soccer."

Thoughts that are echoed by Rothenberg: "We understand the purpose is to develop this team for 1994.

"From a fan standpoint if the team does well now, it's going to help. . . but I'm prepared to lose every single game if its helps us win in 94."

After his team's 2-1 defeat by Colombia in May, Bora had this to say: "We lost well. We accomplished many things, the game itself is not as important as what you learn. That's soccer — if we improved, then we won."

Losing well is not a concept that has ever had any appeal to Americans, in any sport, but the rules are different for soccer. Bora and his players are able to function in comparative peace, because the media are simply not that interested.

While the lack of attention may rankle, it does allow a tranquil atmosphere for allowing the team to grow, for blooding young players.

That may or may not be a good thing, because everyone is quite certain that there will be a tremendous amount of media pressure when the World Cup rolls around, and getting used to it ought to be a part of the team's preparation. Defining that team is the difficult part.

US Cup '93 rivals . . . Brazil and the US (above), England and Brazil (below).

Milutinovic — given the lack of pressure — clearly does not feel any need to commit himself to a starting eleven, even on paper.

Even that wouldn't be easy, because so many of his key players — or perhaps one should say those who are expected to be key players — are playing in Europe. Indeed, does it make any sense at all to assess the US's performance when they are playing without the likes of John Harkes, Tab Ramos, Roy Wegerle, Eric Wynalda, Hugo Perez, and Tom Dooley?

Unreality hangs over the scene, with a sort of ill-defined optimism building up to suggest that when the overseas players report back, they will all play like supermen. Maybe they will, but the life of a pro soccer player is an increasingly fragile affair.

Both Tab Ramos and Tom Dooley have had injury-riddled seasons; Hugo Perez is notoriously injury-prone; Roy Wegerle had trouble holding down a regular starting spot with Blackburn;

Eric Wynalda's scoring spree in Germany has come to a screeching halt as FC Saarbrucken have set a Bundesliga record for games without a goal. Even when the player is fit and playing well, Bora has managed to complicate the issue.

His refusal to name Millwall goalkeeper Kasey Keller in the squad for US Cup '93 seems almost childishly perverse.

Milutinovic, as well as anyone, knows the value of an experienced goalkeeper. It was, after all, the commanding play of keeper Gabriel Conejo that carried Bora's Costa Rica into the second round of Italia '90.

Yet Milutinovic does not even want to take a look at Keller, who appears to be being punished for refusing to wear the team-sponsors' goalkeeping gloves during his last stint with the team.

Not that the problems have been confined to the overseas players. The most worrying injury is that of the home-based Marcelo Balboa, who tore knee ligaments during a 1-1 draw with Iceland.

Balboa, Known as The Iron Man, had played himself solidly into the sweeper spot on the team, and — with 72 caps — is second on the all-time appearance list for the US.

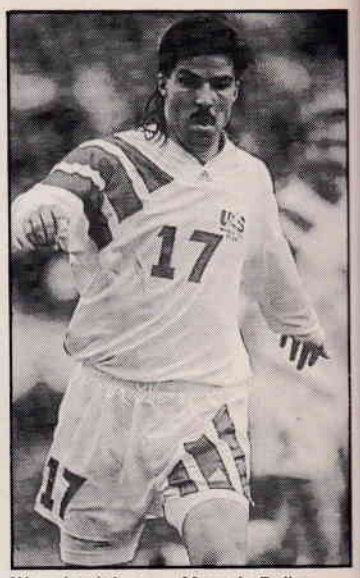
The injury — a freak that occurred away from the action as Balboa ran and turned — could keep him out for up to nine months.

If the first half of 1993 has proved difficult going for the US, the second half looks like being a lot stiffer.

First there is US Cup '93, with Brazil, England and Germany to contend with. Immediately after that, the US head south to Ecuador to take part in the Copa America.

First-round opponents there are Ecuador, Uruguay and Venezuela. Whatever Milutinovic or Rothenberg may say about the art of losing well, or the unimportance of winning, a victory or two in those tournaments would be welcome.

And why not? Just a year ago, the US surprised everyone by beating the Republic of Ireland and Portugal and drawing with Italy en route to winning US Cup '92.



Worrying injury . . . Marcelo Balboa.

1993 record

US v Denmark	2-2	(Murray, Moore)
US v Romania	1-1	(Kinnear)
US v Russia	0-1	
US v Russia	0-0	
US v Canada	2-2	(Kinnear, Murray)
Hungary v US	0-0	
Japan v US	3-1	(Perez)
El Salvador v US	2-2	(Allnutt, Jones)
US v Honduras	1-4	(Allnutt)
Saudi Arabia v US	0-2	(Moore, Michallik)
US v Iceland	1-1	(Vermes)
US v Colombia	1-2	(Lalas)

AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE (APSL) — Results

April 30: Vancouver 2 Toronto 1
May 1: Los Angeles 5 Toronto 0, Fort Lauderdale 3 Tampa Bay 2
May 8: Tampa Bay 2 Colorado 3
May 9: Fort Lauderdale 2 Colorado 3 *(shoot-out)*, Vancouver 1 Los Angeles 2
May 14: Los Angeles 3 Montreal 2 *(shoot-out)*
May 15: Fort Lauderdale 2 Toronto 3 *(aet)*, Colorado 2 Montreal 0
May 16: Tampa Bay 3 Toronto 0

	W	L	F	A	Pts
Los Angeles Salsa	3	0	9	3	23
Colorado Foxes	3	0	7	4	23
Fort Lauderdale Strikers	1	2	7	7	15
Tampa Bay Rowdies	1	2	7	6	13
Toronto Blizzard	1	3	4	12	9
Vancouver Eighty-Sixers	1	1	3	3	9
Montreal Impact	0	2	2	2	4

● *6 points for a win in regulation time or overtime; 4 pts for a shoot-out win, 2 pts for a shoot-out defeat; 1 pt for each goal scored in regulation time, up to a maximum of three.*

1993 UEFA CUP FINAL

JUVENTUS 6
BORUSSIA DORTMUND ..1
(ON AGGREGATE)

By RINO **LANDA**

First leg = Wednesday, May 5
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 1 (Rummenigge 2)
JUVENTUS 3 (D. Baggio 27, R. Baggio 31, 74)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 37,000. **Ref:** M Puhl (Hun).
Dortmund: Klos — Grauer, Reuter, Schmidt, Lusch, Franck (Mill 46), Zorc (Karl 73), Rummenigge, Poschner, Reinhardt, Chapuisat.
Juventus: Peruzzi — Julio Cesar, Carrera, Kohler, De Marchi, Conte, D. Baggio, R. Baggio (Di Canio 77), Marocchi, Vialli, Moller (Galia 89).

Second leg = Wednesday, May 19
JUVENTUS 3 (D. Baggio 5, 40, Moller 65)
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Blankenstein (Hol)
Juventus: Peruzzi — Carrera, Torricelli (Di Canio 63), De Marchi, Kohler, Julio Cesar, Moller, D. Baggio, Vialli, (Ravanelli 80), R. Baggio, Marocchi.
Dortmund: Klos — Reinhardt, Schmidt, Schulz, Zelic, Poschner, Reuter (Lusch 65), Karl, Mill, Rummenigge (Franck 42), Sippel.

Man of both matches: Roberto Baggio (Juventus).

Baggio double act

They are far too sharp for poor Dortmund

THE 1993 UEFA Cup Final brought delight to Juventus, winning for the second time in four seasons. But the Baggio Show — Dino scored three of Juve's six goals and Roberto scored two — was too much of a walkover to please the neutral.

Not that this will worry Juventus after a season afflicted by controversy and political skirmishing.

Coach Giovanni Trapattoni, who had spent most of the season looking unusually preoccupied, said after the second leg: "I'm delighted because this success comes after such a difficult, controversial season.

"We were not complacent after winning the first leg in Germany. Borussia are a good team. We knew they would test us. Fortunately Dino Baggio scored an early goal and that made everything so much more simple for us."

Trapattoni praised the overall contribution of the other Baggio, saying: "Roberto has shown, in the UEFA Cup and latterly in the Italian League, that he can become one of the greatest players in the history of football."

Baggio scored twice to help turn the first leg around after Michael Rummenigge opened the scoring in two minutes. Dino Baggio scored the other Juve goal and the lesser-known Baggio stepped up to remove any doubt about the outcome in the return.

First he thumped home a rising drive to convert a backheel from Gianluca Vialli. Then he secured his fifth goal in the Cup as he and Vialli jumped together for a free-kick five minutes from the interval.

Roberto Baggio, tipped already as prospective European Footballer of the Year, delighted the Stadio delle Alpi with some thrilling second-half dashes as Juventus became the only team to win the UEFA Cup on three occasions since it replaced the Fairs Cup in 1972. This victory brought them their first trophy since 1990 when they won both the UEFA Cup and the Italian Cup. Their other UEFA triumph came in 1977, during Trapattoni's first spell in charge.

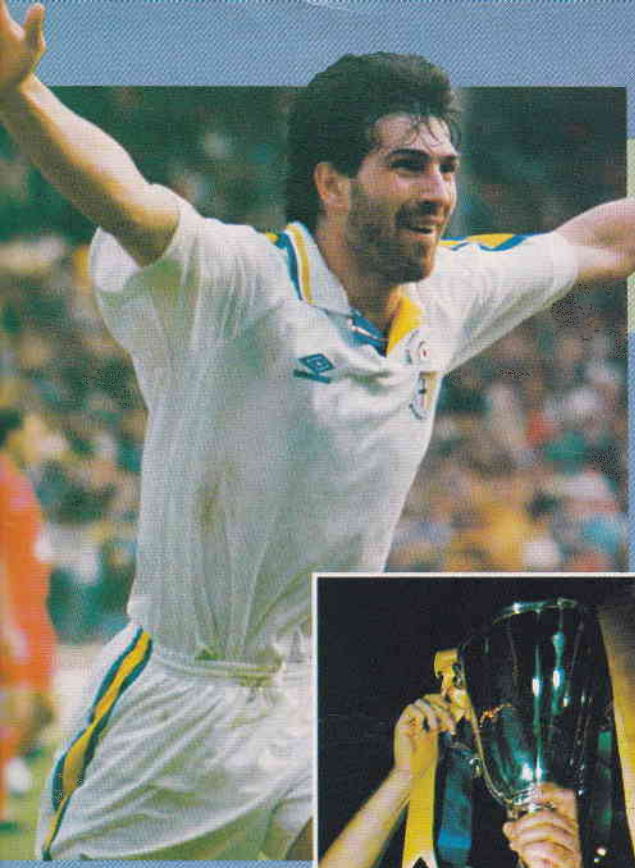
Dortmund, upset by a combination of injuries, suspension and ineligibility, never gave up but were always second best — especially after their former player, Andy Moller (below), completed the scoring. An attempted clearance by Ned Zelic rebounded into the net off his legs.

Victory brought mixed emotions for England captain David Platt, dropped by Juventus for both matches and left to ponder his future from a seat in the stand.

Platt said: "I'm pleased that the team won but there is a bit of sadness that I was a mere spectator."

Man of both matches . . . Roberto Baggio shows his delight after his club's comprehensive victory.

Man on the spot . . . Dino Baggio heads the second goal in the second leg past Dortmund keeper Klos.



1993 CUP-WINNERS' CUP FINAL

ANTWERP 1
PARMA 3

By JOHN **KELLY**

12 May = Wembley Stadium

ANTWERP 1	v	PARMA 3
Severeyns 11		*Minotti 9, Melli 30 Cuoghi 83*
Stevan Stojanovic	1	Marco Ballotta
Wim Kiekens	2	Antonio Benarrivo
Nico Brockaert	3	Alberto Di Chiara
Rudy Taeymans	4	Lorenzo Minotti (capt)
Rudy Smidts (capt)	5	Luigi Apolloni
Dragan Jakovljevic	6	Georges Grun
Ronny Van Rethy	7	Alessandro Melli
Didier Segers	8	Daniele Zoratto
Francis Severeyns	9	Marco Osio
Hans-Peter Lehnhoff	10	Stefano Cuoghi
Alex Czerniatynski	11	Tomas Brolin
Geert Emmerechts	12	Marco Ferrari
Gerry Debraef	13	Salvatore Matrecano
Patrick Van Veirdeghem	14	Gabrielle Pin
Nourredine Moukrim	15	Fausto Pizzi
Wim De Coninck	16	Faustino Asprilla

HT: 1-2. **Att:** 37,393. **Ref:** K-J Assenmacher (Ger).

Substitutions: Pin for Zoratto (26), Van Veirdeghem for Jakovljevic (58), Pizzi for Osio (66), Moukrim for Segers (86).

Man of the Match: Antonio Benarrivo (Parma).

Triumph . . . Alessandro Melli celebrates Parma's second goal (above).

Trophy . . . Tomas Brolin shows off the silver (right).

Tangling . . . Stefano Cuoghi and Dragan Jakovljevic (far right).

Bright sparks

Class tells for Parma

THE Italian star shines brightly at the moment, firmly in the ascendancy in European football.

Parma, as if to demonstrate the point, completed the first leg of a possible Italian European treble by outclassing Antwerp in the Cup-winners' Cup Final.

Both clubs were competing in their first European final, but Parma, all neat footwork, slick passing and intricately-woven patterns, were far too good for the more simplistic, direct Antwerp.

The Belgians played in the traditional "English" style, fitting for Belgium's oldest club — founded by English dock workers in 1880.

Parma are a much younger club, reorganised as recently as 1969, and from a town with a population of just 175,000 — one of the smallest ever to succeed in Europe.

Their Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla, recently recovered from a mysterious injury received while visiting his mother in Colombia, only made the bench.

Parma, in the end, did quite adequately without Asprilla and won at a canter.

The opening goal came after only nine minutes. Tomas Brolin found Antonio Benarrivo on the right with a cross-field pass, the full-back took the ball on and crossed for Alessandro Melli, whose diving header was turned past the post by Stevan Stojanovic.

But Stojanovic, who won the Champions' Cup with Red Star Belgrade in 1991, misjudged Luigi Apolloni's corner, leaving skipper Lorenzo Minotti to volley into the roof of the net. Two minutes later Antwerp drew level. Daniele Zoratto's clearance struck Alex Czerniatynski in the chest, he controlled the ball and threaded a beautiful pass through to Francis Severeyns, who held off his marker and slipped his shot across and under Marco Ballotta.

At that stage the game could have gone either way. But Benarrivo's surging runs and testing crosses down the right flank, in conjunction with Marco Osio, should have served as a warning to Antwerp.

On the half hour Parma attacked down that channel and regained their lead. Georges Grun found Osio on the edge of the box, he shielded the ball, turned sharply and crossed for Melli, who beat Rudy Taeymans in the air to score with a header.

Parma almost made it 3-1 just before half-time with a perfectly executed free-kick, but Melli's effort was harshly ruled out for offside.

At the start of the second period Parma pressed for a third goal but their well-worked attacks were let down by wasteful finishing. Melli was most guilty, missing several excellent chances after good work by Brolin, Osio and Cuoghi.

Nevio Scala, the Parma coach, decided then to increase the pressure by replacing midfielder Osio with Fausto Pizzi, a striker. But the switch had the opposite effect and Parma's attacking flow receeded, allowing Antwerp to edge back into the game.

Antwerp's best chance of an equaliser came, and went, after 75 minutes when Wim Kiekens headed inches wide from a Didier Segers corner.

Inevitably, though, as Antwerp pushed men forward, Parma hit them on the break with seven minutes left.

Grun, playing probably his last game for Parma before a possible move back to Belgium, weighted a lofted pass to Stefano Cuoghi beautifully. Cuoghi, having beaten the offside trap, had the simple task of controlling the ball before waiting for Stojanovic to commit himself and then slipping his shot home.

Right at the death Hans-Peter Lehnhoff had a chance to reduce the arrears but Ballotta, a virtual spectator for much of the game, saved well to ensure a 3-1 win for Parma.

This was by no means one of the best European finals, but, from a neutral's point of view, it was certainly enjoyable. Both teams seemed genuinely delighted just to be there and, for a welcome change, both had reason to feel proud.

For Antwerp, a quietly modest club, reaching the final of a major European trophy is in itself a triumph.

For Parma, in only their second European campaign and only 10 years after leaving Italy's Third Division, to win the trophy is an even more amazing success.

The game may not have matched last year's Champions' Cup extravaganza between Barcelona and Sampdoria for technical brilliance or atmosphere, but it was another enjoyable night of continental colour in London.

Parma's fans, with their yellow balloons, looked like a field of ripe mustard swaying in the breeze as they cheered their team on. Antwerp's fans, many of them with their faces painted red and white, supported their team to the end and seemed thoroughly to enjoy themselves despite the defeat.

As Parma's skipper Minotti climbed the Royal Box steps to collect the trophy, Antwerp's fans broke into a chorus of "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life", a song cribbed from their English counterparts.

On nights such as these, football has its own way of reminding us that it is not only the winning that is of paramount importance. Sometimes just being there is enough.

UK news

King of the crumblies

New boss faces a huge job as Clough empire collapses

By MARK **IRWIN**

FRANK CLARK has no illusions about the size of the task facing him as the new manager of Nottingham Forest.

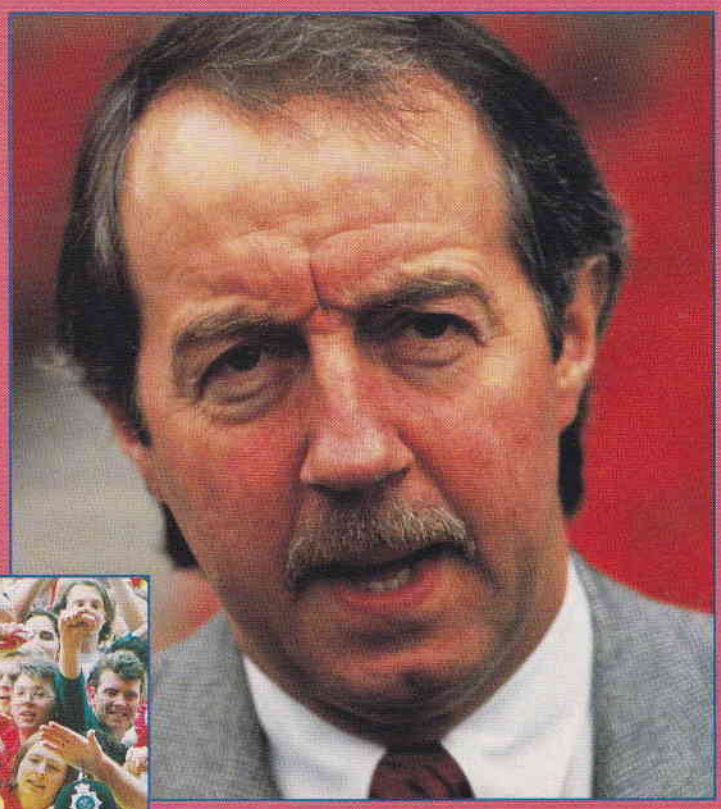
Clark, a member of the club's Champions' Cup winning team in 1979, now faces the daunting prospect of replacing Brian Clough, a legend at the City Ground.

Many supporters are still stunned by the circumstances surrounding Clough's departure following 18 years in charge.

Yet their animosity towards rebel director Chris Wootton, whose Sunday tabloid allegations preceded Clough's "retirement", only served to cloud the fact that Forest are desperately out of touch with the demands of the modern English game.

Whether Clough jumped or whether he was pushed is no longer relevant.

All that matters is that he is out of the way as Clark sets about salvaging a leaking vessel in serious danger of sinking without trace.



Moving in . . . Frank Clark (top).

Moving on . . . Brian Clough (above).

Moving up . . . Forest won the Champions' Cup in 1979 (right).

That Forest will be kicking off the new season in the First Division will not make that task any easier for Clark, recruited last month from Leyton Orient after Martin O'Neill decided to stay with League newcomers Wycombe Wanderers.

Not only does he have to lift the morale of a team beaten in 22 of their 42 Premier League fixtures last season. He must almost certainly do so without the help of the few quality players left on the club's books. Ex-gaffer's son Nigel Clough is likely to be the first out. He broke the habits of a lifetime to publicly criticise the way the club handled his father's departure, and fallen champions Leeds are leading the chase for Clough junior, who will generate close on £2 million in the current transfer market.

Whether they'll get so much for 31-year-old Stuart Pearce is doubtful, especially after he missed the final four months of the season with a groin injury.

Even before that, Pearce's form had been a major disappointment following a cash row with Clough.

Before Clark's appointment, there were whispers that "Psycho" had been interested in becoming player-manager at Forest.

But he is equally keen to retain the England captaincy and knows that Graham Taylor does not look favourably on his players playing outside the Premier League.

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson is a known Pearce fan, and made an unsuccessful move for him three years ago. This time he might be more successful.

But it is Roy Keane who is undoubtedly the jewel in Forest's crown. He was signed from Irish part-timers Cobh Ramblers for just £10,000 three years ago, and is still only 21, and currently the hottest property in Britain.

One of the stipulations laid down in the contract signed by Keane three months ago was that he would be allowed to leave in the event of relegation. Forest have since revealed that his asking price to British clubs is £3 million; for foreign teams that rises to £5 million.

An interesting twist to the Keane saga emerged when chairman Fred Reacher announced that the escape clause does not come into play until October, by which time he hopes Forest will have made an impressive enough start in the First Division to persuade the player to abandon thoughts of a move to Blackburn or Manchester United.

Whether Forest can live up to Reacher's optimistic expectations remains to be seen, but the omens are not good.

The lack of physical presence was a major contributor towards their Premier League downfall. That frailty will be exposed even more ruthlessly in the First Division.

Quite simply, Forest's style of play under Clough had become outdated and ineffective. It may well be a sad indictment of the modern British game, but teams can no longer get by on skill alone. Manchester United recognised that two years ago when they tailored their passing game to accommodate the added steel of Paul Ince and Gary Pallister.

Clough ignored demands for an injection of pace and athleticism . . . and his team paid the price.

"We will play our way out of trouble the proper way — by passing the ball to feet as it's meant to be," Clough always insisted.

"Various managers have suggested we should alter our approach, but I am too old to start making changes and, besides, I wouldn't have a clue how to go about it."

Clough accelerated that decline by selling the defensive pace of Des Walker and the attacking power of Teddy Sheringham before he had come up with adequate replacements for either.

Clark cannot afford to make the same mistake. Pearce, Keane and Clough, if and when they go, will need to be replaced, and the £6 million they are likely to raise will give him plenty of room to manoeuvre in a depressed transfer market.

Finding the right men won't be easy. Clark spent ten years learning the ropes at Orient, but the financial constraints placed on the manager of any lower division club means he has little experience of

the shark-infested waters of big-money negotiations.

Even so, he needs to sign six or seven new players if Forest are to make any sort of impression in the promotion race next season.

No City Ground player has scored 20 League goals in a season since Forest won the Champions' Cup back in 1980.

That situation won't be remedied while they rely on Robert Rosario (surely the most perverse signing of Clough's 18-year reign at the City Ground) and 33-year-old Gary Bannister.

Clark also needs a couple of central defenders with the pace and mobility to cope with the back-pass rule, and the strength to cope with robust First Division strikers. And if Pearce goes, Clark also will need to come up with a better left-back than current stand-in Brett Williams.

Then Clark must address the

Keane . . . entitled to leave.

goalkeeping situation and decide whether the inexperienced Andy Marriott can be trusted to take over from the error-prone Mark Crossley. If Marriott is really not as good as Crossley, then Clark will have to buy.

And of course there's the problem of a midfield totally bereft of a ball-winner.

Even Neil Webb's return from a three-month injury lay-off won't improve matters until Forest realise that you can't pass the ball if you don't have it.

It all adds up to a monumental rebuilding job for the new management team.

Forest might not have admitted it yet, but they are going to have to come to terms with the fact that they are no longer a major force.

The sooner they face up to that reality, the sooner they can start to remedy the situation.

Reacher insisted that Clark is the right man for the job, even though he appears to be second choice behind O'Neill.

"Frank is a man of talent, integrity and honesty, and we are delighted to have been able to appoint someone who knows the set-up at the City Ground," said the chairman.

Ironically, Clough tipped Clark as his eventual successor, back in 1984. Now the prediction has proved accurate and the protege must prove he is prepared to dismantle the crumbling empire created by the mentor.

Easy for United . . . in the end

MANCHESTER UNITED, as expected, won the Premier League, but in the end it was a lot easier than they could have dared hope.

With two games left, only Aston Villa could deny United the title, but their challenge fell apart in spectacular fashion. Both clubs' matches were switched from the Saturday for live TV transmission, with Villa up first against relegation-battlers Oldham.

But a single goal by Nick Henry in the first half gave Oldham the points and United the championship. At Old Trafford, the party began 24 hours early with thousands of fans gathering to celebrate. Manager Alex Ferguson was on the golf course when the news came through of Villa's defeat!

The following night United played host to Blackburn amid an atmosphere of utter delirium. But United proved just how worthy of the title they are by recovering from a goal down to beat Kenny Dalglish's in-form side 3-1. The highlight of the evening was a spectacular 25-yard free-kick by Ryan Giggs, predictably voted Young Player of the Year for the second season running.

In the end, United finished 10 points clear of Villa, a little unflattering to Ron Atkinson's side, perhaps, as they gave United a very good run for their lavishly-spent money.

Villa will have to be content with a place in the UEFA Cup along with Norwich, more than delighted with their first European excursion.

Events at the bottom of the table were just as exciting, and matters were not fully settled until the final Saturday of the season. Nottingham Forest did not make it that far. Defeat at home to fellow strugglers Sheffield United in their penultimate match sent them down, and gave Dave Bassett's side a lifeline which they successfully clung to when they won 2-0 at Everton to secure their Premier League place for next season.

Oldham's 3-2 midweek win at home to Liverpool sent Middlesbrough through the trap-door, manager Lennie Lawrence unable to repeat his Charlton escapes, while Crystal Palace scraped a 0-0 draw at Manchester City.

So, on the final Saturday, Oldham and Palace were the two sides in danger, with Oldham needing to beat Southampton at Boundary Park, hoping that Palace would lose at Arsenal, to stay up.

Arsenal duly fulfilled their side of the equation by beating Palace 3-0, leaving Oldham a clear route to safety.

Joe Royle's side seemed to have seen the light as they stormed to a 4-1 lead against the Saints, but, as so often happens, Oldham could not help but make a crisis out of a drama.

Matt Le Tissier completed a hat-trick with five minutes remaining to set up a nerve-jangling finish for Royle and Co. But they held on for a 4-3 win, to pip Palace and hang on to their place in the top flight.

Oldham may have only just avoided relegation, but their 42 Premier League matches produced 137 goals, an average of more than three a game, easily the highest in the division.

As usual, once the season finished the managerial merry-go-round swung into action. A week after relegation, Steve Coppell announced that he was quitting as Palace boss, after nine years in charge.

Across London, Chelsea had a surprise for caretaker boss David Webb, who was told he would not be given the job permanently. He immediately joined Brentford, while Chelsea are believed to have reached agreement with Swindon to take Glenn Hoddle to Stamford Bridge.

Newcastle and West Ham are promoted automatically from the First Division, West Ham narrowly beating Portsmouth to second place behind Kevin Keegan's season-long leaders.

The only outstanding issue is who will join them. In the play-offs, Leicester beat Portsmouth, despite finishing 12 points behind them in the table, to set up a final with Swindon, who beat Tranmere.

FA PREMIER LEAGUE — Final table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MAN UTD	42	24	12	6	67	31	84
Aston Villa	42	21	11	10	57	40	74
Norwich	42	21	9	12	61	65	72
Blackburn	42	20	11	11	68	46	71
QPR	42	17	12	13	63	55	63
Liverpool	42	16	11	15	62	55	59
Sheffield Wed	42	15	14	13	55	51	59
Tottenham	42	16	11	15	60	66	59
Man City	42	15	12	15	56	51	57
Arsenal	42	15	11	16	40	38	56
Chelsea	42	14	14	14	51	54	56
Wimbledon	42	14	12	16	56	55	54
Everton	42	15	8	19	53	55	53
Sheffield Utd	42	14	10	18	54	53	52
Coventry	42	13	13	16	52	57	52
Ipswich	42	12	16	14	50	55	52
Leeds	42	12	15	15	57	62	51
Southampton	42	13	11	18	54	61	50
Oldham	42	13	10	19	63	74	49
Crystal Palace	42	11	16	15	48	61	49
Middlesbrough	42	11	11	20	54	75	44
Nottm. Forest	42	10	10	22	41	62	40

Right result, but Wright's in the wrong

ARSENAL'S laboured but merited victory over Sheffield Wednesday in the FA Cup Final proved yet again that no team of Gunners can be taken lightly.

Under manager Herbert Chapman in the 1930s, Arsenal built a reputation for defending dourly and snatching goals on the break. Under Tom Whittaker in the 1950s they won a title on goal average, after scraping a 3-2 home victory in their final game, and won the FA Cup after being two down in the semi-final.

Under Bertie Mee in the 1970s they won the Fairs Cup by beating Anderlecht 3-0 in the second leg of the final after losing 3-1 away, and did the double by scoring a last-minute goal in their last League match and scoring twice after falling behind in extra time at Wembley . . . having equalised from a last-minute penalty in the semi-final.

In the same decade, under Terry Neill, they led 2-0 in a Cup Final with five minutes to go, conceded two goals,

Wright . . . four Final goals.

then still found time to win 3-2. And in the past six years, under George Graham, they have won the League Cup by ending the hoodoo of all hoodoos, becoming the first team to beat Liverpool in any game in which Ian Rush scored, and taken the title from Liverpool by winning at Anfield when only a victory by 2-0, or better, would suffice. And the second goal came in the last minute.

Now, having bettered Sheffield Wednesday 2-1 in the League Cup Final, Arsenal repeated that score in the replayed FA Cup Final thanks to a goal in the final seconds.

Arsenal, of course, have lost their share of big games, sometimes when favourites — as against Third Division Swindon in the League Cup, Ipswich and Second Division West Ham in the FA Cup, and Valencia in the Cup-winners' Cup. But the current squad lack nothing in terms of determination to match the feats of those in the past.

Sympathy for Wednesday was widespread, as it would be for any team losing two finals in a month, but there can be little doubt that Arsenal deserved both successes.

They came back from one down to win the League Cup, and were either level or leading throughout the four-hour marathon of the major tournament.

As with so many games these days, the finals — particularly the drawn first

Continued over

Sugar's bitter pill for TV addicts

IF it had been a publicity stunt, it would have been the football coup of the decade.

Arsenal, the FA Cup finalists, wiped from the national newspapers' back-page headlines by the board-room drama at Tottenham.

But this was no malicious stunt, though the behind-the-scenes power battle at White Hart Lane proves that, sometimes, truth is stranger than fiction.

Out of the blue, Tottenham announced that chief executive Terry Venables had been fired from his £250,000-a-year job — forced out by Alan Sugar, the computer millionaire who helped Venables save the club from financial ruin in 1990.

What seemed to be a marriage made in heaven — Venables the brains behind the football side of the partnership, Sugar the financial genius — had crumbled.

An extraordinary meeting of Tottenham's board of directors met in the morning and voted Venables out, with former director Douglas Alexiou rejoining the board.

Immediately a game of "Chinese whispers" began as to why Venables was forced out. Clearly Sugar no longer wanted him around, but why?

One theory suggested that Sugar had planned to appoint Swindon's Glenn Hoddle, still a hero with the Tottenham faithful, as team manager — displacing current joint-managers Doug Livermore and Ray Clemence.

Such a move would have left Venables in an untenable position, given his role in control of team affairs, and the suggestion is that Sugar forced Venables out too.

Another possible explanation circulating is that Venables may have been dismissed because of problems with his personal business affairs. Venables had had to take out large, expensive loans and may have left himself spread a bit too thinly for Sugar's liking.

The Standard offered another hypothesis: that Venables had agreed a £2.2million fee with Sampdoria to buy England defender Des Walker, but that Sugar had blocked the deal because it was too expensive.

But Tottenham's day of drama was not finished because Venables obtained a late-night court injunction against the dismissal, on the grounds that Sugar had not acted in the club's best interests. May 25 was the date set for the new hearing, giving both sides time to prepare their arguments.

This preparation time, however, developed into a public slanging match, with both parties firing verbal missiles at each other. Sugar claimed Venables was not fit to run a football club, citing Gary Lineker's transfer to Grampus Eight in his 56-page affidavit to the court as an example, claiming that Lineker was worth £4m and that he could not understand why Venables accepted only £900,000 for him.

Venables questioned whether Sugar had Tottenham's best interests at heart and submitted his own affadavit, signed by several players, documenting their distress at the situation.

The court appearance did not change matters, QC Sir Donald Nicholls deferring the case until June 8.

While the reason for the dismissal may have been uncertain, the result was not.

TV, as he is affectionately known, is a former Tottenham player and is seen as the man who saved the club. For many fans, and quite a few players, without Venables there is no Tottenham.

That may be an extreme view but there is little doubt that, in terms of support, Venables has a big advantage.

Support for him was overwhelming, from the fans, who threatened to boycott matches and chanted "We want T, no Sugar", from eight of the club's players who declared that if Venables went they would too, from the players' wives who picketed Sugar's mansion in Essex, and even from legendary former manager Bill Nicholson, who added his weight to the TV addicts camp by attending a meeting of supporters opposed to Sugar's plans.

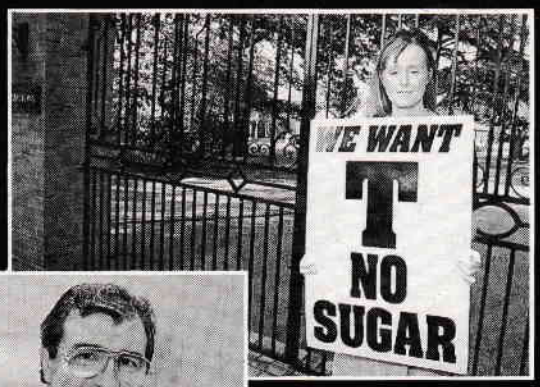
Sugar, surprised at the general reaction, given the regular hiring and firing of managers, seems to have underestimated the power Venables has at the club.

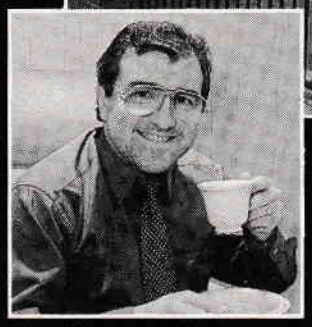
Whether or not TV wins his position back remains to be seen, and it has even been suggested that he will try to force Sugar to sell his interest in the club, buying him out with the help of new financial partners.

Either way, this could drag on for weeks yet.

Arsenal don't know whether to laugh or cry.

JOHN **KELLY**





Venables . . . enjoying support from fans such as Sarah Ruddock, wife of defender Neil.

Continued from previous page

edition — did not match the preliminary hype. The teams cancelled each other out almost totally, amid a growing atmosphere of enmity scarcely surprising in the circumstances. Too many games against the same foes in a short period inevitably lead to score-settling.

Arsenal carry at least one niggler too many. Ian Wright is a fine chance-taker (four goals in four FA Final appearances, with Palace and Arsenal, make him joint second behind Rush) but he must be an awful opponent to play against.

Sadly, referee and linesmen allowed him — and some others, notably Mark Bright with an awful elbowing offence — far too much leeway in which to indulge voice and gestures.

With Footballer of the Year Chris Waddle in the inconclusive mood that frustrates his many admirers, and several others seemingly a mere stride ahead of the undertaker, the awful prospect of the shoot-out was only seconds away from reality.

Then, at long last, Arsenal took the trophy with a goal by one former Norwich player, Andy Linighan, headed through the hands of another former Norwich player, Chris Woods . . . and putting Norwich into next season's UEFA Cup as third-place finishers in the Premier League, Arsenal go into the Cup-winners' Cup, and poor Wednesday — who have Linighan's twin brothers on their books — end with nothing.

Jordan feels the pinch

THE latest managerial casualty in Scottish football is none other than Joe Jordan, who holds the distinction of scoring in three separate World Cup tournaments.

PREMIER DIVISION — Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
RANGERS	44	33	7	4	97	35	7[illegible]
Aberdeen	44	27	10	7	87	36	6[illegible]
Celtic	44	24	12	8	68	41	6[illegible]
Dundee United	44	19	9	16	56	49	4[illegible]
Hearts	44	15	14	15	46	51	4[illegible]
St Johnstone	44	10	20	14	52	66	4[illegible]
Hibernian	44	12	13	19	54	64	3[illegible]
Partick	44	12	12	20	50	71	3[illegible]
Motherwell	44	11	13	20	46	62	3[illegible]
Dundee	44	11	12	21	48	68	3[illegible]
Falkirk	44	11	7	26	60	86	2[illegible]
Airdrie	44	6	17	21	35	70	2[illegible]

The decision to remove Jordan from the manager's chair at Hearts came less than 48 hours after the team had slumped to an inglorious 6-0 defeat by Falkirk, which realistically destroyed their hopes of a UEFA Cup place next season.

While many were shocked at the decision, there was surprisingly little discontent amongst the mainstream Hearts followers, many of whom have been critical of Jordan's ultra-cautious strategy and his inability to lead the club to domestic honours. Indeed, 20 years have passed since a major trophy ended up on the Tynecastle sideboard.

Chairman Wallace Mercer praised Jordan's efforts in the face of limited financial resources, but said that "the laughter had disappeared from the dressing room" — an indication that morale, such an important factor in footballing psychology, had fallen to an unacceptably low level.

Jordan has been replaced by former Airdrie, West Ham and Rangers striker Sandy Clark, previously reserve coach at Hearts.

With the Premier Division championship having been a forgone conclusion for so long, celebrations were somewhat muted when Rangers finally attained the points which assured them, mathematically, of the title for the fifth season in succession.

Victory over Airdrie at rather basic Broomfield Park meant that the champagne corks could be safely released, but with only 10,000 people able to cram into the spartan stadium, the principal festivities were reserved for the home game against Dundee United seven days later, with the trophy being presented at the end of the match.

Airdrie, by contrast, are relegated after a two-year stay at the top level which had been eventful to say the least. The evergreen Jimmy Nicholl, player-manager of Raith Rovers, led his team to the First Division title and immediately accepted a two-year contract with the club, despite being tipped for the position as manager of Dundee United.

ALAN **FAIRLEY**

Byrne celebrates as Jackson mourns

BANGOR won the Irish Cup Final against local rivals Ards at Windsor Park, but needed three matches before they were able to celebrate their first Irish Cup win in their 75-year history.

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Linfield	30	20	6	4	49	15	66
Crusaders	30	21	3	6	53	27	66
Bangor	30	20	4	6	61	32	64
Portadown	30	18	9	3	70	26	63
Distillery	30	20	2	8	61	36	62
Glenavon	30	14	6	10	48	36	48
Glentoran	30	13	8	9	70	40	47
Ards	30	12	9	9	45	45	45
Carrick	30	12	2	16	50	73	38
Ballymena	30	10	6	14	41	51	36
Cliftonville	30	10	3	17	42	48	33
Omagh	30	9	5	16	38	57	32
Larne	30	9	3	18	41	59	30
Newry	30	5	5	20	30	72	20
Coleraine	30	5	3	22	28	63	18
Ballyclare	30	2	6	22	28	75	12

Fans had to wait for the 89th minute of the third match until 20-year-old Dubliner Paul Byrne finished a six-man move by thumping the ball in from 18 yards.

That was a fitting ending for Byrne — now with Celtic — who had "scooped the pool" of personal awards the previous weekend. For the first time ever the same player won both the PFA and Football Writers awards for Player and Young Player of the Year.

Bangor's Nigel Best won the Manager of the Year award.

The Cup Final was the team's 21st successive match without defeat — a run in which they also won the League Cup, defeating Coleraine 3-0, and finished third in the League.

Bangor will go into the Cup-winners' Cup, with Linfield in the Champions' Cup and Crusaders in the UEFA Cup.

Glentoran manager Tommy Jackson paid the price for a disappointing season after his team had won the League by 12 points in 1991-92.

Jackson, who was capped 35 times, was stunned by the decision, which followed pressure from fans, and an apparent unwillingness on the part of some players to carry on under his management.

However, his reign will go down as one of the best spells for the club. Under him they won 15 trophies in less than seven years.

ROY **KITSON**

Something to crow about

Cwmbran qualify to join the big boys

THE McDonalds nearby was full of hamburger-eating children. The streets around Stebonheath Park were almost deserted. Few seemed to know, and even fewer seemed to care, that one of the most historic events in Welsh soccer was unfolding.

There can have been few more humble settings for a European qualification than the home of the Llanelli club, across from Stradey where the Rugby Union boyos play.

But it was on Stebonheath Park's daisy-covered surface, in front of a crowd of 400 — above average for the Konica League of Wales — that visiting Cwmbran scored the 87th-minute goal to gain the victory which made them the first Welsh club to enter the Champions' Cup.

At least, that's what they hope. Cwmbran will participate next season as long as UEFA's club competitions committee do not rescind a decision made a year ago, when they agreed that the Principality's champions would be eligible for the major European club event.

Whether Cwmbran's £35 a week part-timers get to fulfil their dreams by being pitted against the mega millionaires of Manchester United, Rangers, Marseille or Milan is quite another matter.

First, they almost certainly have to negotiate a preliminary tie against representatives from the likes of the Faroes, Estonia, Malta, Cyprus and Luxembourg, which may not sound too demanding but which, on the evidence of Stebonheath Park, probably will test Cwmbran to the full.

The little club from a new town in Gwent will not set Europe alight.

That much is sure. But they may still make it so hard for opponents to score that they could reach the first round, which would be an achievement in itself.

Four first-teamers have emerged form the club's youth policy but the essence of Cwmbran's foundation has been a resolute defence, built around captain Jimmy Blackie, a medical technician. They kept clean sheets in more than half their 38 League fixtures, conceding only 22 goals altogether. All three league defeats were by 1-0.

"It's a phenomenal record," said manager Tony Wilcox, whose face radiated the pride he felt. "We deserved it. I'd have been bitterly disappointed if we had not won the title with a record like that."

Wilcox, an area housing manager with Cardiff Council, watched his team accumulate one particular sequence of nine matches and over 900 minutes without letting in a goal.

Early in that decisive mid-winter spell, during the 3-0 win over Afan Lido, Cwmbran's chairman, George Thorneycroft, suffered the accident that almost ended his life.

As he climbed the steps of the club's council-owned stadium, he slipped on ice and fractured a femur. A heart attack two days later forced him to spend the next six weeks in hospital, four of them on a life-support machine.

Thorneycroft now hopes that the ground — opened by Brian Clough in March 1973 — will be the making of the club in Europe, UEFA permitting.

The stadium, better known as an athletics arena, can accommodate crowds of 13,200 (3,000 seats), some way above its 340 average.

Wherever Cwmbran stage their European games, their destiny is certain to be influenced with prudence by the 57-year-old Thorneycroft, who was forced earlier in the season to offload two players costing the club £80 a week.

As the former financial director at Newport County, founded by his grandfather in 1912, Thorneycroft remembers telling the rest of an over-ambitious board: "If you don't do as I'm saying, I'll resign."

They didn't and he did, a few months before learning that his favourite club had been wound up after losing their place in the Football League.

While Thorneycroft was away convalescing, Cwmbran won every game to seize the initiative from Inter Cardiff, who had looked likely winners of the inaugural Konica title.

"This ranks as one of the greatest days for me," the chairman had concluded half an hour after Cwmbran's Wayne Goodridge had plunged in for the decisive header.

Goodridge, a mechanical fitter, had missed some midweek games because of jobs that took him as far away as Dorset and Yorkshire. But he made sure, to Inter Cardiff's cost, that he was around for the game that really matter.

"It's the most important goal I ever scored," he said, as if we did not know already.

With UEFA's permission, the fairytale will linger on for this assortment of part-timers. It is indeed a remarkable story for a club formed only in 1955, who were still playing on public parks when they won their first honour, the Abacus League First Division in 1967.

The crow, which sits alongside a football to represent the club's motif, was beginning to crow more loudly. And, hopefully, it will do so for a while yet.

NICHOLAS **HARLING**

CYNGHRAIR BÊL DROED CYMRU

THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE OF WALES

RESULTS

ENGLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 2

WEEKEND

EVERTON 0
ARSENAL 0. **Att:** 19,044.

SHEFFIELD WED 2 (Bart-Williams 52, Morris 78 o.g.)
MIDDLESBROUGH 3 (Falconer 26, Pollock 38, Hendrie 51). **Att:** 25,049.

NORWICH 1 (Phillips 62 pen)
LIVERPOOL 0. **Att:** 20,610.

CHELSEA 2 (Spencer 14, Cascarino 71)
COVENTRY 1 (Quinn 57). **Att:** 14,186.

CRYSTAL PALACE 3 (Young 8, Armstrong 17, McGoldrick 60)
IPSWICH 1 (D. Gregory 37). **Att:** 18,881.

LEEDS UTD 1 (Hodge 69)
QPR 1 (Ferdinand 14). **Att:** 31,408.

SOUTHAMPTON 0
MAN CITY 1 (White 42). **Att:** 11,830.

TOTTENHAM 1 (Anderton 39)
WIMBLEDON 1 (Earle 64). **Att:** 24,473.

NOTTM. FOREST 0
SHEFFIELD UTD 2 (Hodges 30, Gayle 73). **Att:** 26,752.

ASTON VILLA 0
OLDHAM 1 (Henry 29). **Att:** 31,401.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 9

MIDWEEK

MANCHESTER UTD 3 (Giggs 23, Ince 60, Pallister 90)
BLACKBURN 1 (Gallacher 9). **Att:** 40,447.

ARSENAL 0
QPR 0. **Att:** 18,817.

EVERTON 0
SHEFFIELD UTD 2 (Bradshaw 15, Hodges 25). **Att:** 15,197.

SHEFFIELD WED 1 (Hirst 90)
LEEDS UTD 1 (Chapman 35). **Att:** 26,855.

MAN CITY 0
CRYSTAL PALACE 0. **Att:** 21,167.

OLDHAM 3 (Beckford 20, Olney 35, 36)
LIVERPOOL 2 (Rush 30, 59). **Att:** 15,381.

TOTTENHAM 1 (Anderton 86)
BLACKBURN 2 (Newell 22, 54). **Att:** 23,097.

SHEFFIELD WED 1 (Bright 19)
ARSENAL 0. **Att:** 23,645.

WEEKEND

ARSENAL 3 (Wright 9, Dickov 82, Campbell 89)
CRYSTAL PALACE 0. **Att:** 25,225.

BLACKBURN 1 (Sherwood 65)
SHEFFIELD WED 0. **Att:** 14,956.

COVENTRY 3 (Williams 5, Quinn 40, Ndlovu 73)
LEEDS 3 (Rod Wallace 6, 89, 90). **Att:** 19,591.

IPSWICH 2 (Milton 40, Whitton 52 pen)
NOTTM. FOREST 1 (Clough 64 pen). **Att:** 22,083.

LIVERPOOL 6 (Rush 21, 85, Barnes 44, 88, Harkness 47, Walters 82 pen)
TOTTENHAM 2 (Sheringham 46, Sedgley 77). **Att:** 43,385.

MAN CITY 2 (White 39, Curle 73 pen)
EVERTON 5 (Jackson 6, Beagrie 19, 84, Beardsley 32, Preki 51). 25,180.

MIDDLESBROUGH 3 (Falconer 34, Wilkinson 65, Hendrie 74)
NORWICH 3 (Ekoku 14, 66, Johnson 68). **Att:** 15,155.

OLDHAM 4 (Pointon 29, Olney 44, Ritchie 55, Halle 64)
SOUTHAMPTON 3 (Le Tissier 34, 67, 85). **Att:** 14,597.

SHEFFIELD UTD 4 (Scott 7, Rogers 16, Whitehouse 43, 48)
CHELSEA 2 (Lee 86, Townsend 87). **Att:** 24,850.

QPR 2 (Ferdinand 67, Allen 75)
ASTON VILLA 1 (Daley 36). **Att:** 18,904.

WIMBLEDON 1 (Holdsworth 81)
MANCHESTER UTD 2 (Ince 63, Robson 70). **Att:** 30,115.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 16

MIDWEEK

ARSENAL 1 (Dickov 52)
TOTTENHAM 3 (Sheringham 31, Henry 46, 78). **Att:** 26,393.

QPR 3 (Allen 27, 37, Ferdinand 63)
SHEFFIELD WED 1 (Bright 78). **Att:** 12,177.

WEEKEND

FA CUP — FINAL
ARSENAL 1 (Wright 21)
SHEFFIELD WED 1 (Hirst 62). **Att:** 79,347. *After extra time.*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 23

MIDWEEK

FA CUP — FINAL REPLAY
ARSENAL 2 (Wright 34, Linighan 119).
SHEFFIELD WED 1 (Waddle 68).
Att: 62,267. *After extra time.*

LEADING SCORERS

1 ..... **Sheringham** (Tottenham) ... 21
2 ..... **Ferdinand** (QPR) 20
3 ..... **Holdsworth** (Wimbledon) ... 18
4 ..... **Quinn** (Coventry) 17
5 ..... **Cantona** (Manchester Utd) . 15
Robins (Norwich) 15
Shearer (Blackburn) 15
White (Manchester Utd) 15
Wright (Arsenal) 15
Deane (Sheffield Utd) 15
Armstrong (C. Palace) 15
Le Tissier (Southampton) .. 15
Wilkinson (Middlesbrough) 15

SCOTLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 2

WEEKEND

HIBERNIAN 1 (Weir 86)
MOTHERWELL 0. **Att:** 4,807.

FALKIRK 6 (Weir 33, Wishart 38, Baptie 46, 57, Rice 53, Cadette 71)
HEARTS 0. **Att:** 4,122.

CELTIC 1 (McAvennie 8)
ABERDEEN 0. **Att:** 20,642.

DUNDEE UTD 3 (Connolly 34, 54, O'Neill 43)
PARTICK THISTLE 1 (Britton 63). **Att:** 5,590.

AIRDRIE 0
RANGERS 1 (McSwegan 46). **Att:** 11,830.

ST. JOHNSTONE 1 (Wright 73)
DUNDEE 1 (Ritchie 5). **Att:** 4,471.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 9

MIDWEEK

PARTICK THISTLE 3 (Farningham 1, Tierney 51, Britton 60)
RANGERS 0. **Att:** 9,834.

HEARTS 1 (Thomas 66)
ABERDEEN 2 (Shearer 31, Paatelainen 71). **Att:** 6,038.

WEEKEND

ABERDEEN 1 (Booth 44)
ST. JOHNSTONE 1 (Torfason 9). **Att:** 7,000.

DUNDEE 3 (Ritchie 19, Weighorst 29, Gilzean 60)
HIBERNIAN 1 (Evans 82). **Att:** 5,265.

HEARTS 1 (Johnston 71)
AIRDRIE 1 (Smith 73). **Att:** 5,104.

MOTHERWELL 2 (McCart 42, Arnott 81)
FALKIRK 1 (Rice 72). **Att:** 8,577.

PARTICK 0
CELTIC 1 (McAvennie 20 pen). **Att:** 10,424.

RANGERS 1 (Huistra 71)
DUNDEE UTD 0. **Att:** 42,197.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 16

MIDWEEK

ABERDEEN 1 (Shearer 22)
RANGERS 0. **Att:** 13,500.

WEEKEND

HIBERNIAN 0
PARTICK 1 (Britton 35). **Att:** 5,481.

FALKIRK 1 (McQueen 13 pen)
RANGERS 2 (Michailichenko 24, Hateley 67). **Att:** 8,517.

CELTIC 2 (McStay 46, McAvennie 52)
DUNDEE 0. **Att:** 19,436.

DUNDEE UNITED 1 (Dailly 10)
ABERDEEN 4 (Booth 6, 69, Gibson 66, Grant 88). **Att:** 9,078.

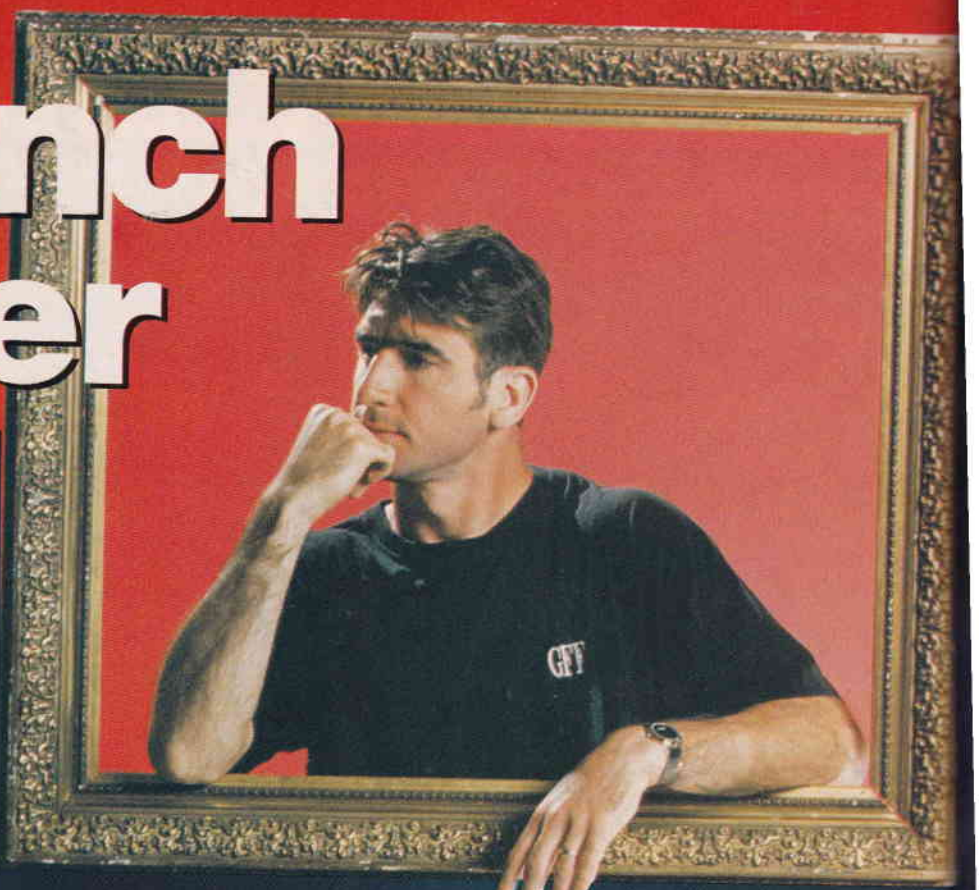
AIRDRIE 1 (Fashanu 25)
MOTHERWELL 2 (Graham 8, O'Donnell 44). **Att:** 3,000.

ST. JOHNSTONE 3 (Torfason 42 pen, Curran 71, Buglione 80)
HEARTS 1 (Harrison 62). **Att:** 3,000.

LEADING SCORERS

1 ..... **McCoist** (Rangers) 34
2 ..... **Shearer** (Aberdeen) 21
Hateley (Rangers) 21
4 ..... **Paatelainen** (Aberdeen) 16
Connoly (Dundee Utd) 16
6 ..... **Doods** (Dundee) 15
7 ..... **Wright** (St. Johnstone) 14
8 ..... **Jackson** (Hibernian) 13
Payton (Celtic) 13
Britton (Partick) 13
11 ... **Ferguson** (Dundee Utd) 12

the French master



OLD TRAFFORD, home of Manchester United, has seen more outstanding individual footballers per blade of grass than any other stadium in England.

Duncan Edwards was the teenage hero who died at Munich in 1958; Bobby Charlton the game's great gentlemen; Denis Law a one-man explosion; George Best the boy with a self-destruct button.

But now the crowds cheer a real enfant terrible: Eric Cantona, the most skilled French export since Michel Platini accepted the lure of the lire with Juventus in the 1980s.

Cantona arrived in English football more than a year ago, pursued by the sort of reputation which usually sends club managers running in the opposite direction. He freely admits: "It's fortunate most players are not like me, or there would be anarchy!"

His history was littered with controversy: fights with team-mates, clashes with referees, insults to managers, shouting matches with disciplinary committees.

At Auxerre, Bordeaux, Montpellier and Marseille, Cantona had driven officials and colleagues to despair. Great skills, superb technique, limitless vision . . . but a temper and impatience to match.

That impatience landed Cantona in controversy within a week of his arrival in England.

He had retired from French football after what he judged an unfair suspension. But such an artist, with football in his blood, could not be denied a place on his natural stage — the football pitch.

Cantona was invited for a trial with Sheffield Wednesday by their progressive young player-manager, Trevor Francis. One week bedeviled by bad weather was not, thought Francis, long enough in which to make a decision. So he invited Cantona to stay for another week.

That, for Cantona, was an insult. He was a renowned international. He had a reputation to maintain . . . and signed for nearby Leeds, instead.

For Leeds manager Howard Wilkinson, Cantona was the signing whose panache provided the last piece in the jigsaw for the team about to win the League championship. That is Cantona's talent. Short fuse. Short term. He is a football catalyst.

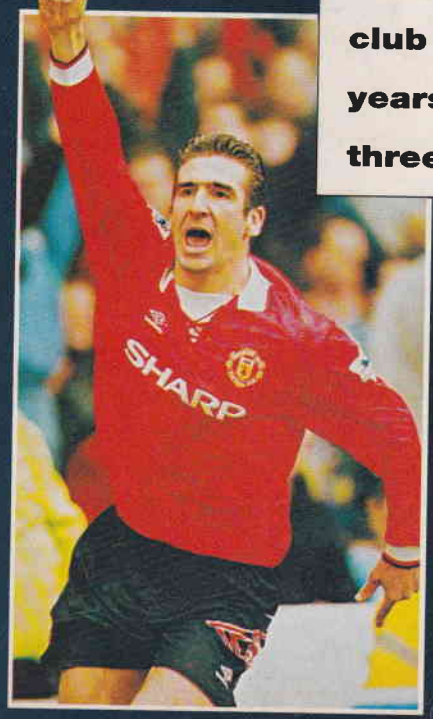
That is why Manchester United paid £1 million to sign him earlier this season, less than a year after he joined Leeds. Cantona helped inspire their drive to win the title for the first time since 1967 — his third championship, in three years, for three clubs.

Wild rumours circulated within English football as to the "real" reasons for Cantona's abrupt departure from Leeds. All are emphatically denied by player and club.

Leeds chairman Leslie Silver says: "There was a request from Eric's lawyer for a transfer to another English club. Eric then handed in a written request.

"He was disillusioned at being left out of the side on a couple of occasions. It's also a matter of club policy that we do not stand in the way of any player who does not want to play for Leeds. Eric went to Manchester United of his own free will."

'Why should I ever want to stay with one club for ten years — or even three years?'



Michel Mezy, a former director of Montpellier and now president of Nimes, Cantona's last French club, recognises the fragile nature of the player's temperament. Mezy says: "Eric is a bright, intelligent man who can become difficult to handle. This is his nature. When things go wrong he does get upset.

"His temperament is fragile. But when things go right, then you can have nobody better in your team."

Cantona sees matters rather more coolly. As befits a man for the grand stage he made his debut for Manchester United in the Estadio da Luz in Lisbon, home of Benfica, in a match to celebrate Eusebio's 50th birthday.

"I spent some of the very best months of my career at Leeds," says Cantona.

"I can understand that some people may feel I let down the supporters, but I do not see it that way. I had a special relationship with those fans. I think they understood why I could not stay.

"I had become just another cog in the machine. And, deep down, I am not a cog, content to play a small part in a team who run on their own power.

"Why should I ever want to stay with one club for ten years — or even three years? No reason.

"What an awful thought! I want to maintain my spiritual freedom. So, I was glad to change clubs.

"Manchester United play the football I understand. They are more constructive and creative."

Even so, Cantona is not blind to the faults of English football.

He says: "They play too many games in England. There's the League, the FA Cup and the League Cup as well as European club matches and internationals. By the time we played the second leg of the Champions' Cup tie against Rangers we were on our knees, physically drained. That's why we lost.

"Look at the record of English clubs in European competition since they returned a few years ago. It's not very clever — apart from Manchester United winning the Cup-winners' Cup. And everyone accepts that the Cup-winners' Cup is the easiest to win of the three competitions.

"After playing in England I understand what has happened rather better than the people in England themselves.

"Before, English teams made up for their weakness in technique with their physical and mental strength. But now other nations have understood and have caught up.

"The English believe they are the best in the world. But the way things are going — for the clubs in Europe and for the national team in the World Cup qualifiers — they must see that this is no longer the case."

Cantona may be a realist when it comes to English football but life in England delights him.

He says: "I like the English. On the continent we say that the English are cold and reserved. But they're not. The English like to laugh. They like to tell jokes. I've been surprised."

Surprise works both ways. Few people doubt that Cantona has a few more surprises up his sleeve for English football before he is finished.

But then . . . that is the element of genius which makes him the superstar he is. And he knows it.

KEIR **RADNEDGE**

COPA AMERICA 93

ERIC WEIL sets the scene for the 36th Copa America

ECUADOR

JUNE 15 — JULY 4

WHO PLAYS WHEN

First round

June 15:
Ecuador v Venezuela (A).
June 16:
Uruguay v US (A), Colombia v Mexico (B).
June 17:
Argentina v Bolivia (C).
June 18:
Paraguay v Chile (B), Brazil v Peru (B).
June 19:
Ecuador v US (A), Uruguay v Venezuela (A).
June 20:
Colombia v Bolivia (B), Argentina v Mexico (C).
June 21:
Brazil v Chile (B), Paraguay v Peru (B).
June 22:
US v Venezuela (A), Ecuador v Uruguay (A).
June 23:
Argentina v Colombia (C), Mexico v Bolivia (C).
June 24:
Chile v Peru (B), Brazil v Paraguay (B).

Quarter-finals

June 26:
1st group A v Best 3rd placed team; 1st C v 2nd A.
June 27:
1st B v 2nd best 3rd placed; 2nd B v 2nd C.

Semi-finals

June 30 & July 1.

3rd place

July 3.

Final

July 4.

Action from Copa America 1991.

A tournament at the wrong time

THE 36th edition of the South American Championship — the oldest international tournament in the world, first held in 1916 — has increased in importance with the participation of CONCACAF teams, the winners of that region's championship, the United States, and Mexico by invitation.

At the same time, however, it loses some importance in the eyes of most participants because it comes immediately before the South American World Cup qualifying games, to which many are giving more importance.

The Championship, for the Copa America, is being staged by Ecuador from June 15 to July 4.

Some countries have announced that they will not take their strongest teams to Ecuador, either to rest them and keep them injury-free for World Cup games or because they cannot get their exiles released by their European clubs for such a long period. Some coaches feel that it is not possible to keep their team in peak form for almost three months to cover both competitions.

The Copa America, with 12 teams for the first time, will be played in three preliminary groups of four teams each. The top two of each group qualify for the quarter-finals with the two third-placed teams with the best records — always a questionable method.

From the quarter-finals onwards there is a straight knock-out, with a third-place play-off.

Group A (playing Quito and Ambato, where grounds hold 45,000 and 20,000 respectively) is composed of seeded Ecuador, Uruguay, United States and Venezuela.

This is possibly the weakest group, Ecuador's seeding being based exclusively on their having home advantage and the altitude of the venues.

Group B (in Cuenca and Machala, stadium capacities 25,000 and 20,000) is composed of Brazil (seeded), Paraguay, Chile and Peru.

Group C (in Guayaquil and Portoviejo, capacities 55,000 and 25,000) comprises Argentina, Colombia, Bolivia and Mexico. The teams to beat are Argentina and Brazil and there is little to choose between them, judging by their most recent 1-1 draw in the Argentine FA's centenary match, when both sides fielded their European-based exiles.

They are seeded to meet in the final, but this could change if either one should fail to win a group.

Some people claim that Ecuador's stadiums are not big enough, but officials rightly argue that in previous tournaments attendances were not high enough to make larger arenas necessary.

Ecuador's government have made $2.2 million available for refurbishing of stadiums.

Apart from that, the tournament is expected to cost almost $1 million, including such expenses as $1,500 per team per day and $150 to referees per day.

A Brazilian firm, Traffic, had offered $2.5 million for TV rights, but CONMEBOL said that this price would have to be renegotiated if two CONCACAF teams participate.

Now Gamavision, presumably, are paying more for the rights.

ECUADOR

Draskovic's big chance

THIS is the best-ever chance **ECUADOR** have had to cause an impression under Yugoslav coach **Dusan Draskovic** (above).

During his spell in charge Ecuador have been better organised and have surprised some leading countries, only to fall later against weaker opponents. They have been on the point of qualifying for finals in several tournaments, then fell. Perhaps at home they will have that extra push.

Draskovic picked 36 players for his squad, only 11 of whom played in the last Copa America when Ecuador finished two points out of a qualifying place despite holding Uruguay 1-1.

The 36 included two strikers playing

abroad — **Alex Aguinaga and Eduardo Hurtado** (above). A third, experienced defender **Holger Quinonez,** came back recently, but was then suspended for missing training. The team worked together in summer and again from May 10, when the local championship was suspended.

Ecuador, however, have played only one full international this year, winning 3-0 against a weak Romania who lost most of their matches on tour.

URUGUAY

Home alone for Cubilla

URUGUAY failed to qualify for the final round of the last Copa America and they may fail again.

Coach **Luis Cubilla** steadfastly refused to pick any players with clubs abroad, and this was blamed for failure. Cubilla remains, but who is going to play?

Men such as **Enzo Francescoli, Jose Herrera, Ruben Sosa, Daniel Fonseca and Carlos Aguilera**, with Italian clubs, were annoyed at being left out last time, and swore never to play under Cubilla again. Now the Uruguayan FA want them back, but agreement has proved difficult. But, last year Uruguay were the only team to beat Brazil, home and away . . . without their exiles.

VENEZUELA

Last, probably, but not least

THE poor relations of South American soccer — that's **VENEZUELA,** although the game is better organised there than it used to be.

Stars past their best still go to Venezuelan clubs from other South American countries to lengthen their careers in a lower class of soccer.

In 1991 Venezuela lost all four Copa America games, but beware! They are now coached by two Yugoslavs — **Ratomir Dujkovic and Sretn Petkovic** — and in their two internationals this year they drew 0-0 at home with Peru and then Colombia. In the second match, only three of the 1991 squad lined up. Venezuela are unlikely to do anything other than finish last, but rivals should not take them too lightly.

USA

Don't count on Bora's boys

MANAGER **Bora Milutinovic** has to be almost schizophrenic in his World Cup preparations because all his best players are in Europe, and the material he has had to work with, so far with disappointing results this year, is not so much a "B" team as a "C" team.

If **John Harkes** and Co. can shake off their European-induced fatigue the United States may achieve the odd surprise, but don't count on it.

BRAZIL

Parreira's big problem

COACH **Carlos Alberto Parreira** (above) has a problem: **BRAZIL** players play too much soccer, and domestic schedules have not taken Brazil's needs into account. Most of the top internationals play abroad and will not be available until shortly before the tournament, but Parreira has the same problem with home-based players, because the state championships scheduled their final rounds for June and top clubs will not release their men who, in any case, are tired out by then.

Parreira has been picking from seven to eight Sao Paulo FC players in his squads and that club had a congested fixture list of three to four matches a week.

Brazil, runners-up in the last Copa America, have played two internationals this year, drawing 1-1 away to Argentina, with their European-based players, and 2-2 at home to Poland without them.

They will then take part in a tournament in the US with the hosts, England and Germany, while the state Championship finals are still on. All this could have been avoided with better organisation.

As it is, they have a choice: go to the Copa America with tired players who will be in worse shape for the World Cup qualifiers almost right after, or send reserves to Ecuador and rest the top players for World Cup duty.

PARAGUAY

Corte faces huge task

THE recent resignation of **PARAGUAY** coach **Sergio Markarian** was a blow.

Under him the team had won the South American qualifying tournament for the Barcelona Olympics — one of Paraguay's rare successes.

Markarian left because he was not allowed to pick two seasoned internationals playing in Argentina — **Roberto Cabanas and Alfredo Mendoza** — who had been suspended from international duty for criticising officials after the team failed to qualify for the 1990 World Cup.

Argentine **Hector Corte**, who had played and coached in Paraguay for 20 years, was given the coaching job in spite of protests from some quarters that he did not have enough experience.

He picked a squad of 19 to train, but that will have little resemblance to the line-up in Ecuador. None of them played in the last Copa America.

Striker **Felipe Franco,** who is 35, was top scorer in last season's First Division.

Leading clubs Cerro Porteno and Olimpia would not release players because of the Libertadores Cup.

One of the exiles, goalkeeper **Jose Chilavert** (playing in Argentina), scorned the chance to go to the Copa America after being offered nine dollars expenses per training session (for which he would have to travel from Argentina) and 140 dollars per match by the never-prosperous Paraguayan FA.

In their only match this year, still under Markarian, they gained a 1-0 home win over Bolivia.

CHILE

Zamorano is the lone exile

COACH **Arturo Salah,** in charge of **CHILE,** has picked a mostly experienced squad — average age 24 — including 10 players from 1991, when Chile were third.

There is only one exile — Real Madrid striker **Ivan Zamorano** — and

Zamorano . . . Chile's lone exile.

apparently Salah can afford the luxury of leaving out **Ivo Basay and Carlos Poblete,** playing in the Mexican League, where the former is top scorer. Salah says he can cover their places well with home-based players.

Chile played only one match this year, a 2-1 home win over Bolivia, but appear to be in the hunt for a quarter-final place.

PERU

Popovic plays it his own way

VLADIMIR POPOVIC took over the national team last year in **PERU** under loud protests from a large section of the country's soccer community.

He was exasperated by the low standard of the game, and will hardly have changed his mind since. Peru, who only had one victory in the 1991 Copa America, have played four internationals so far this year — 0-0 in Venezuela, 1-1 at home against Honduras and Byelorussia and a 2-0 defeat by Romania.

Popovic said he wants a team who mark well and score and he does not care about the pretty football which took Peru to their best World Cup performance under **Didi** in 1970. Popovic's is not the kind of game that comes easily to a Peruvian player more inclined to the Brazilian "jogo bonito" type of play.

Peru have some good players — notably scorers **Baroni and Maestri,** who have shone in this year's Libertadores Cup.

ARGENTINA

Basile's big hope

THE defending champions, **ARGENTINA,** are unlikely to be at full strength.

Coach **Alfio Basile** has given preference to World Cup qualifying games, cannot maintain the same team in peak form for both tournaments, and rests European-based players.

All of which could add up to a reserve team, not the squad who won the Copa America two years ago.

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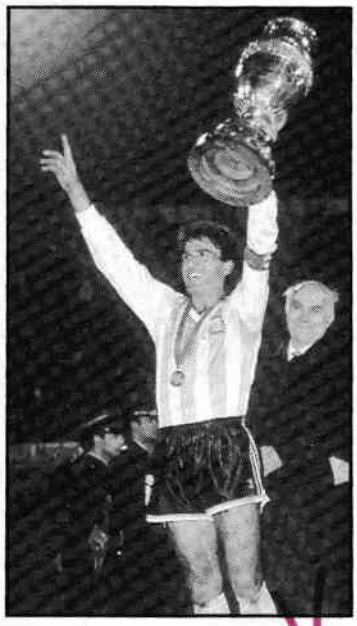


Champions . . . Ruggeri in 1991.

But Argentina are on a 23-match unbeaten streak — which, **Basile** stresses, does not weigh on the players' minds. In those 23 matches no fewer than 48 players wore the national shirt and that, perhaps, is the secret.

Many of those games were played without "exiles" and with newcomers being tried out . . . but Basile is naturally hopeful of further successes.

Argentina's two internationals this year ended in 1-1 draws at home against strong opposition from Brazil and Denmark.

COLOMBIA

Duo facing style dilemma

COLOMBIA almost pulled out of the championship. Only a few months ago coach **Hernan Darlo Gomez** resigned because he had been receiving death threats.

So had some national team players and coaches who were possible candidates to take over . . . such as **Francisco Maturana,** who was in charge at the last Copa America, where Colombia qualified for the final round, but finished last.

Nobody wanted to take on the job and some players were ready to step down.

Then the threats suddenly stopped and **Maturana** and **Gomez** were named joint coaches although their styles are different, as can be seen in the country's two leading clubs.

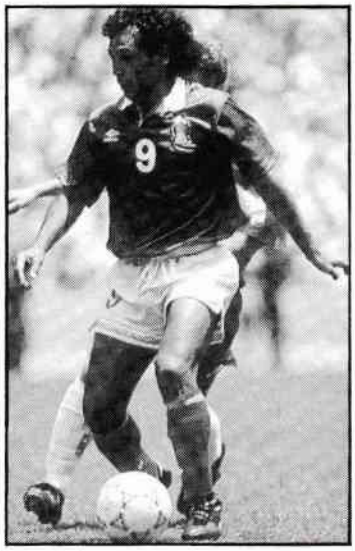
Gomez of Nacional Medellin is aggressive and attack-minded, Maturana of America Cali is more conservative and concentrates on midfield play.

A squad of 16 home-based players picked in February included seven who played in the last Copa America. Strikers **Faustino Asprilla** and **Ivan Valenciano,** both doing well in Italy, were to be reserved for the World Cup.

Since then goalkeeper **Rene Higuita** broke a leg and veteran midfielder **Carlos Valderrama** was dropped for being too slow. Further new players were brought in to make the squad up to 22 and Colombia showed more aggression in beating Costa Rica 4-1, in contrast to a poor 0-0 draw in Venezuela . . . which left the coaches in a quandary.

MEXICO

Aztecs make Copa debut



MIGUEL MEJIA BARON, a dentist by profession, replaced Argentine **Cesar Menotti** as coach of **MEXICO** when the latter left after disagreements in mid-December.

Baron changed most of the team when he picked his squad for the CONCACAF World Cup qualifying final round, and brought back **Hugo Sanchez** (above).

But Mexico's position is different from the South American nations. They had World Cup qualifiers before going to Ecuador to take part in the Copa America for the first time. They started without Atletico Madrid's **Luis Garcia,** the only foreign-based player in the squad.

Mexico will need his goals to reach the quarter-finals in Ecuador.

BOLIVIA

Players' strike proves a bonus

BOLIVIA are one of five teams under foreign coaches in Ecuador . . . and their Spanish boss, **Xavier Azkargorta,** is lucky. Players went on strike at the start of the domestic season and the FA decided to postpone the championship until after the World Cup qualifiers in August, so international players have been training together exclusively . . . except eight from Champions Bolivar, still engaged in the Libertadores Cup.

Not unnaturally, Bolivia played more internationals than others so far this year, beating Honduras 3-1 at home, and losing 1-0 to Paraguay, drawing 2-2 with El Salvador and losing 2-1 to Chile, all away. Not a bad performance.

In the 1991 Copa America they finished bottom of their group, but held Colombia and Uruguay to draws. They might be hard to beat, but cannot be seen as qualifying for the quarter-finals although they could do worse than take on a witchdoctor who claims he can make them do it if he is allowed to improve willpower. But he wants to be put on the coaching staff and collect the same salary and bonuses as the players. The Bolivian FA have not accepted.

Sao Paulo keep defying the odds

By BRIAN **HOMEWOOD**

CAN anything stop Sao Paulo? Despite injuries, an absurd fixture list and the persecution of manager Tele Santana, the team continue to play the best football in Brazil.

By press time they had reached the final of the Libertadores Cup, the semi-final of the Sao Paulo championship and the quarter-finals of the Brazil Cup.

Yet the club have faced difficulties which would have made many give up.

Toninho Cerezo (right) and Ronaldo (below), have both been out with long-term injuries, and Rai joined them at one stage.

The fixture list involved four matches a week — Brazil Cup on Tuesdays, Libertadores Cup on Wednesdays, Sao Paulo championship on Fridays and Sundays — while Santana's criticism of refereeing landed him in hot water with the directors.

Santana did nothing more than say what everyone knows when he said the men in black were not up to scratch. But instead of putting their own house in order, the Sao Paulo federation dragged him up before one of their circus-like tribunals, where they then abandoned their ridiculous posture and let him off with a symbolic fine: 16 dollars.

That left him with only 19,984 dollars from his month's salary.

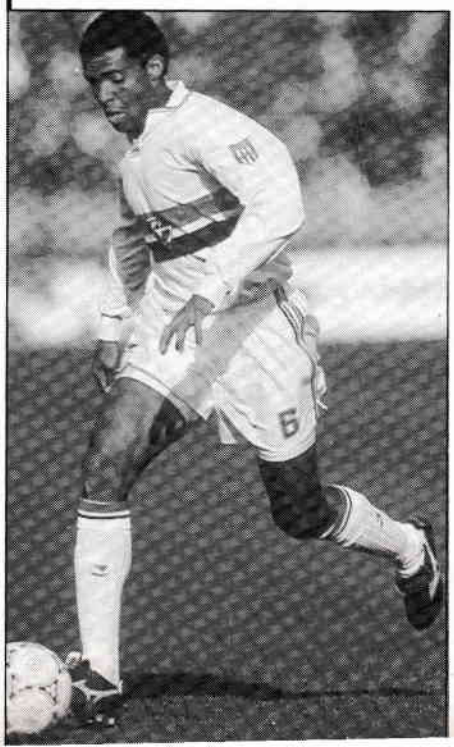
Meanwhile, Sao Paulo's impressive strength in depth has been carrying them through. A seemingly endless supply of talented young players, all products of the excellent youth policy, means that whenever a regular is injured, there is always a capable replacement waiting. Santana has managed to spare his top players for the most important games without losing ground in the Sao Paulo championship and Brazil Cup, where the poor quality of many opponents means that a "mixed" team (semi-reserve) often is good enough.

They saved their best performances for the Libertadores Cup, in particular the 1-1 draw with Flamengo in the first leg of the quarter-final.

Sao Paulo forgot that away teams are supposed to defend in this competition and attacked from start to finish. They should have won by a cricket score but some horrendous shooting and a goal against the run of play by Nelio gave Flamengo a draw.

In the second leg the difference in class between the two was even more apparent, and Sao Paulo won 2-0.

The marathon first round of the Sao Paulo championship finally finished with the big four all comfortably guaranteeing semi-final places with one round to spare.



Palmeiras, Sao Paulo, Corinthians and Santos were joined in the semi-finals by Rio Branco, Guarani, Ferroviaria and Novorizontino.

The last day's matches were as usual marred by controversy. Novorizontino won 7-0 against Catanduvense, who fielded a mainly reserve team including a 17-year-old goalkeeper, Alemao. This infuriated America, who missed out by one point and immediately sent a protest to the federation.

In Rio, Vasco da Gama led the second stage of the championship with five wins out of five but without looking very convincing.

Botafogo signed Colombia's reserve goalkeeper Eduardo Nino, who was immediately given a taste of Brazilian football disorganisation.

When he arrived from Bogota, not a single representative from the club was at the airport to meet him.

Viana tells how not to do it

JAPANESE football directors have been given a lecture on how to organise football by — wait for it — Eduardo Viana, president of the Rio de Janeiro Football Federation.

That must have been like a British Airways director giving a speech on business ethics.

Viana presides over one of the world's worst-organised championships, and quite what the Japanese expected to learn is one of the mysteries of the East.

Perhaps they simply wanted a lesson in how NOT to do things, and will now put into practice exactly the opposite to what Viana told them.

If, however, they did for some strange reason take him seriously, some rather peculiar goings-on can be expected in the new J.League. These include:

- No fixture list. Weekend games will be announced during the previous week.
- Midweek games to kick off at 9.30 pm or whenever TV stations dictate.
- Small clubs to be allowed to provide bumpy potholed pitches to bring more skilful teams down to their level.
- Players who commit violent fouls to be let off.

All the above happen in the Rio championship (a fixture list was introduced this year for the first time but last-minute changes to kick-off and venue render it virtually meaningless) and the public have shown what they think by staying away.

Despite Viana's claims that the closure of Maracana stadium was to blame for last year's laughable attendances, this year's championship, with the Maracana now open, is proving to be another fan repellent.

The 400 attendance at a recent Botafogo game and the 700 for the Fluminense v America match (at the 150,000 capacity Maracana) were but two examples.

Some of the more optimistic souls in the Brazilian press thought Viana's trip to Japan, in which he accompanied Fluminense on a three-game tour, would open his eyes to what well-organised football looks like.

But old habits die hard and on the day Viana departed, Americano and Bangu had to bring their match forward to lunchtime instead of the more popular late afternoon.

Why? So that Viana, an Americano fanatic, could watch his team before taking the plane to Japan.

Discipline?
What a farce

WHEN is a ban not a ban?
Answer: when it is imposed on a Brazilian footballer.

The country's players have been busy attacking referees, kicking their fellow professionals and generally making a mockery of the rules, happy in the knowledge that they will get away with it.

Few aspects of Brazilian football organisation can be taken seriously, and the disciplinary system is no exception. A bewildering system of panels and tribunals, with up to seven members, allows offenders umpteen appeals against a sentence and excellent chances of getting off the hook.

This is strictly lawyers' territory. No ordinary mortal would be capable of comprehending the complex rules and regulations and rights of appeal. Most claim that it is deliberately complicated to benefit the people who make money out of it. And if the sporting justice fails, there are plenty willing to take their case to civil courts.

The result is that players hardly ever receive punishments worthy of their crimes. Junior, Flamengo's 39-year-old midfielder, was initially banned for one month (so far, so good) for butting a referee. But the ban was quickly converted into a fine.

Next, Fluminense left-back Lira, charged with "aggression" for his part in the disgraceful scenes in last year's Brazil Cup Final, when the club's players pushed the referee and fought with riot police at the end of the match.

They renewed the trouble when they met the referee on the plane home next day. He was forced to get off and wait for the next one.

Lira was given a two-month ban in a hearing which took place more than three months after the incident. Three days, later, however, Fluminense's lawyer had a request for a new hearing accepted. Under the rules, Lira is allowed to keep playing until the new appeal.

The case of Edmundo, the volatile Palmeiras striker, followed an almost identical pattern. He was sent off against Vitoria in the Brazil Cup and showed his dislike of the decision by pushing a hand in the referee's face. He was banned for four months, which would have meant his missing the end of the Sao Paulo championship, the last stages of the Brazil Cup, the US Cup '93, the Copa America and most of Brazil's World Cup qualifiers.

Junior . . . a butt and a ban.

Immediately afterwards, without the slightest hint of remorse or worry, Edmundo confidently told reporters he was sure of a new hearing and that the ban would be suspended in the meantime. "I'm sure this will not affect my career," he said nonchalantly. Next day his prophecy came true.

'Our turn for another World Cup'

SOME of the problems facing Carlos Alberto Parreira, manager of Brazil, were outlined in the April *WORLD SOCCER.*

Brazilian fans have been living off memories for 23 years, since their nation last won the World Cup, but the team's form in recent months has been strong — they whacked Germany and held Argentina in Buenos Aires — and now Parreira (right) makes a brave statement: "It's time for us to win the World Cup again. If we do not win this one, it will be three World Cups before we can win it again.

"Half our team at the moment — Bebeto, Taffarel, Careca, Branco, Valdo and Ricardo Gomes — played in the 1990 World Cup. They know about the happiness while you are winning, the sadness when you are out.

"They have had great careers, they have wealth and nice families, and they lack only thing: they cannot say, 'I won the World Cup.' Not yet."

The manager also promised that Brazil will not bore the world in 1994, as they did under Sebastiao Lazaroni in 1990. "That defensive football is not Brazil," he said.

"We want to go back to our roots: to the flat back four, zonal marking, and attacking football. When our players come from France, Italy, Spain, wherever they are, they feel comfortable in that style.

"That is how they played since they were boys. You cannot put Brazilian players into a . . . " and with his hands he mimed a strait-jacket. "Brazilians play best when you leave them free."

Does the Brazilian public put pressure on the manager to play that way? "It is not so much pressure, but yes, there is a feeling that *that* is the Brazilian way."

Brazil's chances will improve if Parreira can solve his problems with

striker Romario before the world Cup. [illegible] in the wake of PSV Eindhoven, refuses to accept a place on Brazil's bench, so he is out of the squad for the moment.

"His behaviour is spoiling his career," the manager says. "When he joined a European club, we though his attitude would change, but it is still bad."

Another problem is Brazil's newspapers, which play on the jealousy between Rio and Sao Paolo.

Parreira says: "Look at the headlines the day after I announced one national squad: '17 Paolistas and only five Cariocas!' All the journalists here ask me why most of my players come from Sao Paulo and Palmeiras. The reason is that they are the two best sides in Brazil at the moment. Palmeiras invested eight million dollars in players this year, and Sao Paulo won the World Club Cup."

Not an easy job, managing Brazil . . . especially when clubs play so many matches that they can hardly train.

Hopefully the authorities will give their team boss a bit more help as the World Cup approaches.

Cruz crushes **Canada's** hopes

AN estimated 12,000 Canadians and 8,000 Mexicans packed Varsity Stadium in Toronto for the critical World Cup qualifier between the two countries — one of those rare occasions when a game in Canada had atmosphere.

Forrest . . . beaten for the first goal.

Canada needed to win to advance to World Cup 1994, while Mexico needed only a draw. The loser would not go out but would need to take the long road through Australia or New Zealand and then South America to qualify.

Mexico applied most of the early pressure but Canada scored first. Dale Mitchell's free-kick on the left was headed back across goal by John Catliff, and as Jorge Campos in the Mexican goal slipped, Alex Bunbury headed in.

Towards half time Mexico equalised, when a fine move between Luis Flores and David Patino was finished by Hugo Sanchez.

FIFA brought in a German officiating team for this game and referee Helmut Krug was certainly busy, issuing four yellow cards to Mexico and three to Canada.

At least one player on each side was fortunate not to be sent off.

In the second half Canada had what appeared to be a good goal by Lyndon Hooper disallowed for offisde.

Then, as Canada pushed forward and left themselves open at the back, Mexico took advantage. Patino and Sanchez enabled substitute Francisco Cruz to beat Craig Forrest.

Mexican coach Miguel Baron was suspended for this game, but sat in the front row of the stands right behind the Mexican bench, with non-stop communication between the two.

COLIN **JOSE**

Argentina

River's hopes recede

BOCA JUNIORS and River Plate, the traditional rivals of Argentine soccer and the clubs with the biggest following, met officially for the 151st time in the national championship's closing tournament.

Gonzalez . . . up the wall.

Boca won 2-0 away — a surprise, because they were slumping while River were surging for a title challenge.

Many Boca fans, anticipating defeat, did not turn up and, as usual, the match was not of a high standard. There was too much depending on the outcome.

Boca now lead the series 54-52 with 45 draws . . . and may have cost River the title. Velez Sarsfield topped the table by three points with six games to go, having taken nine of the last 10 points.

With a safe goalkeeper, Paraguayan Jose Chilavert, behind a defence of Hector Almandoz, Roberto Trotta, Victor Sotomayor and Raul Cardozo, they have conceded only three goals in 13 games.

There is an efficient middle line (Jose Basualdo, Carlos Compagnucci, Christian Basseda, Walter Pico) and goalscoring forwards who have to fight for two places (Omar Asad, Esteban Gonzalez and Jose Flores). Altogether Velez seem unstoppable.

Incidentally, win bonuses being paid on average are River Plate 3,000 dollars, Boca Juniors 2,500 and Velez Sarsfield 1,500.

Mexico

Unlucky **Pachuca** slip back

PACHUCA, the oldest club in the League, returned to the Second Division after only one season.

They had played with virtually the same team who took them up from the Second, and were not up to the standard required.

Pachuca's 10-7-21 record was not all that bad and they were not the club to obtain fewest points this season — but relegation was this time worked out on points obtained over three seasons.

The regular championship ended with the top two teams of each of four groups qualifying for the title play-offs, to be joined by two of the four third-placed teams, also following play-offs.

Atlante Veracruz, Necaxa, America, Cruz Azul, UN Leon, Monterrey and Leon went through, and the third-placed teams due to contest the other places are Santos, Universidad Auto-noma de Guadalajara, Atlas and UNAM.

America drew 80,000 for their 1-1 draw with Cruz Azul at their Azteca Stadium, which 24 hours earlier had housed a capacity 120,000 for Mexico v El Salvador — a record of 200,000 in two days.

Chile

STONE-THROWING by fans in a friendly match in Santiago, between Colo Colo and Argentina's Boca Juniors, led to visiting player Sergio Martinez being knocked unconscious.

That was enough for the popular Chilean club, who effectively disbanded the band of fans, known as the "garra blanca" (white fans) and prohibited their entry to the club. A few days later a man was jailed for causing damage at the stadium.

The Chile Cup — initially played in six groups with the 32 First and Second Division teams — was in progress, but not drawing the fans in spite of innovations such as extra points for goals and no points for goalless games.

Leading teams such as Colo Colo and Universidad Catolica frequently fielded reserves, the latter due to Libertadores Cup engagements, and in their Santiago derby, which usually fills the stadium, they both used reserve teams and drew only 11,600 fans. Both clubs, however, qualified for the second stage.

Colo Colo's successful coach, Mirko Jozic, wants to return to Europe to train youngsters and avoid the pressure of First Division soccer. Jozic first became known in Chile as coach of the Yugoslav World Youth Cup winners in 1988.

ERIC **WEIL**

IN PERU, champions Universitario are only halfway down the table, partly due to Libertadores Cup commitments and partly to internal problems.

Some players did not get on with strict Serbian coach **Ivan Brzic**, and things came to a head when Universitario were eliminated from the Cup.

Brzic resigned and assistant coach **Ramon Quiroga**, a naturalised Argentine who played in goal for Peru in the 1978 World Cup, took over.

Universitario's current goalkeeper, **Juan Carlos Zubzuck** — also from Argentina — followed in Quiroga's footsteps. He took out Peruvian nationality and was picked for the South American Championship squad under another Serb, **Vladimir Popovic**.

Alianza Lima topped the table unbeaten, two points ahead of Sport Boys.

IN URUGUAY, Penarol topped the First Division by two points after five unbeaten games.

Current champions Nacional were struggling with only four points, which brought the resignation of coach Roberto Fleitas, replaced by a former player at the club, Miguel Angel Piazza.

Club officials had dismissed two other coaches after only three games because their clubs had not started the season too well — Voltaire Garcia (Bella Vista) and Victor Luzardo (Racing Club).

IN PARAGUAY, Cerro Cora, one of the "small" clubs, won their first major title — the Copa Republica, bringing together First Division and leading provincial teams.

This gives them the right to play off for a 1994 Libertadores Cup play with the First Division runners-up at the end of the season.

In the final Cerro Cora beat Guarani 5-4 on penalties, whereupon Guarani coach **Oscar Malbernat** was sacked. One missed penalty had cost him his job.

Cerro Porteno and Olimpia were knocked out in the semi-finals.

IN COSTA RICA, Herediano won the regular championship from which the top eight qualified for play-offs in two groups.

IN GUATEMALA, Aurora, representing the armed forces, won the final round and the title for the eighth time in their 48 years, but their first since 1986.

Tipografia Nacional, founded in 1924 and the oldest team in the country, were relegated.

TABLES

ARGENTINA
National A Division — closing championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Velez Sarsfield	13	9	3	1	20	3	21
River Plate	13	8	2	3	15	13	18
Dep. Espanol	13	7	2	4	15	11	16
Racing Club	13	7	2	4	15	12	16
Independiente	13	3	9	1	16	12	15
Estudiantes	13	4	6	3	18	12	14
Argentinos Jun.	13	2	10	1	8	8	14
Rosario Central	13	4	6	3	12	12	14
San Lorenzo	13	4	5	4	19	16	13
Boca Juniors	13	4	5	4	16	13	13
Huracan	13	4	5	4	17	18	13
Belgrano	13	3	7	3	11	15	13
Gimnasia	13	3	6	4	10	11	12
Lanus	13	3	6	4	8	10	12
Dep. Mandiyu	13	2	8	3	12	15	12
FC Oeste	13	4	3	6	10	14	11
Talleres	13	2	6	5	12	20	10
Tucuman	13	3	3	7	10	17	9
Platense	13	2	5	6	8	19	9
Newell's OB	13	0	5	8	2	15	5

Lowest relegation averages: *Mandiyu & Gimnasia 0,935; Platense 0,925; Argentinos 0,916; Talleres 0,888; San Martin 0,843 (bottom two relegated).*

COLOMBIA
Opening Championship — *Group A*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dep. Cali	11	6	2	3	19	13	14
At. Huila	11	5	3	3	17	14	13
Once Philips	11	4	4	3	21	14	12
Millonarios	11	5	2	4	13	16	12
America	11	4	3	4	20	16	11
Pereira	11	4	3	4	13	14	11
Dep. Tolima	11	2	4	5	10	19	8
Indep. Santa Fe	11	2	3	6	12	19	7
Group B							
At. Junior	11	7	2	2	18	8	16
Indep. Medellin	11	4	5	2	15	14	13
At. Nacional	11	5	2	4	19	15	12
Bucaramanga	11	4	3	4	12	14	11
Envigado	11	3	4	4	13	12	10
U. Magdalena	11	4	2	5	15	20	10
Quindio	11	3	3	5	17	16	9
Cucuta	11	2	3	6	9	19	7

Top four teams in each group qualify for final stage.

PERU
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alianza Lima	10	7	3	0	30	10	17
Sport Boys	10	6	3	1	24	9	15
Sporting Cristal	9	6	1	2	22	7	13
Melgar	10	5	2	3	20	20	12
Carlos Mannucci	10	5	2	3	11	12	12
Dep. Municipal	10	4	3	3	15	12	11
Universitario	9	4	2	3	14	8	10
Dep. Sipesa	10	3	4	3	15	10	10
Univ. Cajamarca	9	3	2	4	14	22	8
Cienciano	9	3	2	4	6	14	8
Leon de Huanuco	10	1	6	3	9	11	8
Defensor Lima	10	2	3	5	14	18	7
Union Huaral	10	1	5	4	18	23	7
San Agustin	10	2	3	5	8	14	7
Union Minas	10	2	3	5	5	18	7
Alianza Sullana	10	2	3	5	5	18	7

BRAZIL
Rio (Guanabara State) — 1st round
Guanabara Cup — final standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fluminense	11	8	3	0	17	6	19
Vasco da Gama	11	7	2	2	23	8	16
Flamengo	11	6	3	2	23	11	15
Botafogo	11	5	4	2	18	12	14
America/Rio	11	2	7	2	14	15	11
Bangu	11	4	3	4	8	13	11
Volta Redonda	11	3	4	4	9	10	10
Americano	11	3	4	4	9	15	10
Sao Cristovao	11	2	4	5	8	11	8
Olaria	11	2	4	5	12	16	8
Entrerriense	11	2	3	6	6	13	7
America/Tres Rios	11	0	3	8	4	21	-7

Winners qualify for final round. Bottom two relegated for second stage. America/Tres Rios had 10 points deducted for fielding ineligible player.

Rio (Guanabara State) — 2nd round

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Flamengo	5	4	1	0	14	6	9 (24)
Vasco	4	4	0	0	9	3	8 (24)
Fluminense	3	2	0	1	9	3	4 (23)
Bangu	3	1	2	0	2	1	4 (15)
America/Rio	4	2	0	2	6	6	4 (15)
Americano	4	0	4	0	3	3	4 (14)
Sao Cristovao	4	0	4	0	2	2	4 (13)
Botafogo	2	1	1	0	1	0	3 (17)
Itaperuna	4	1	1	2	4	6	3 (03)
Volta Redonda	4	0	1	3	2	7	1 (11)
Bonsucceso	4	0	0	4	1	7	0 (01)
Olaria	3	0	0	3	1	10	0 (08)

Second round winners qualify for final round with first round winner (Fluminense) and team obtaining most points in both rounds (totals in brackets). If Fluminense also win second round they are automatic champions.

Sao Paulo
Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Palmeiras	28	17	6	5	50	26	40
Sao Paulo	28	15	7	6	50	23	37
Corinthians	28	15	6	7	55	32	36
Santos	28	15	6	7	49	39	36
Mogi Mirim	28	11	12	5	41	30	34
Guarani	28	14	5	9	38	39	33
Rio Branco	28	12	9	7	41	31	33
Uniao Sao Joao	28	11	11	6	43	33	33
Bragantino	28	10	8	10	30	31	28
Portuguesa	28	8	9	11	47	48	25
Ponte Preta	28	7	10	11	30	38	24
Ituano	28	9	5	14	30	37	23
XV de Piracicaba	28	4	12	12	27	44	20
Marilia	28	4	9	15	29	45	17
Juventus	28	5	6	17	27	55	16
Noroeste	28	4	5	19	20	56	13
Group B							
Ferroviaria	25	13	9	3	47	26	35
Novorizontino	25	13	8	4	48	25	34
America	25	14	5	6	37	24	33
Santo Andre	25	11	9	5	32	23	31
Sao Jose	25	8	11	6	26	23	27
Taquaritinga	25	9	8	8	29	29	26
Saocarlense	25	8	8	9	35	36	24
Aracatuba	25	7	10	8	24	30	24
Sao Caetano	25	10	3	12	32	34	23
XV de Jau	25	8	7	10	33	33	23
Botafogo	25	7	9	9	23	23	23
Internacional	25	6	6	13	21	33	1
Olimpia	25	5	6	14	21	42	16
Catanduvense	25	3	7	15	20	47	13

Top six of group A and top two of group B qualify for quarter-finals.

URUGUAY
First Division *(after 5 games):* 1) Penarol 9 pts; 2) Defensor Sporting, Progreso 7; 4) Rampla Juniors, Danubio 6; 6) Cerro 5; 7) Liverpool, Huracan Buceo, Nacional 4; 10) Racing Club, Wanderers 3; 12) River Plate, Bella Vista 2.

ECUADOR
First Division — 1st stage
Group 1 *(9 games):* 1) Emelec 13 pts; 2) Delfin 12; 3) Nacional 9; 4) Liga Univ. Quito 8; 5) Tecnico Univ. 7; 6) Valdez 5.
Group 2 *(9 games):* 1) Green Cross 11; 2) Barcelona 10; 3) Dep. Quito 9; 4) Santos, Cuenca 7; 6) Aucas 6.

VENEZUELA
First Division

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Tachira	25	16	3	6	35
Mineros Guyana	26	14	7	5	35
Minerven	25	14	7	4	35
Maritimo	25	14	6	5	34
Anzoategui	26	11	9	6	31
Estudiantes	25	12	6	7	30
Trujillanos	26	9	12	5	30
Lara	23	10	9	4	29
Monagas	26	11	6	9	28
Caracas	24	12	4	8	28
Llaneros	26	6	10	10	22
Zamora	25	5	6	14	16
Univ. de los Andes	26	3	10	13	16
Galicia	26	3	9	14	15
Italia	26	3	6	17	12
Portuguesa	26	3	4	19	10

MEXICO
First Division
(regular season — final standings)
Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atlante	38	14	13	11	66	55	41
Veracruz	38	14	9	15	56	55	37
Santos	38	7	14	17	34	61	28
Queretaro	38	10	7	21	30	54	27
Univ. Tamaulipas	38	6	12	20	27	55	24
Group 2							
Necaxa	38	23	8	7	76	43	54
America	38	18	11	9	51	42	47
Univ. Guadalajara	38	15	16	7	42	32	46
Puebla	38	16	11	11	58	56	43
Morelia	38	8	14	16	43	61	30
Group 3							
Cruz Azul	38	17	10	11	70	45	44
Univ. Nuevo Leon	38	14	16	8	57	52	44
Atlas	38	12	13	13	48	50	37
Guadalajara	38	11	11	16	43	54	33
Univ. Guadalajara	38	8	14	16	35	54	30
Group 4							
Leon	38	17	13	8	64	38	47
Monterrey	38	15	15	8	51	39	45
UNAM	38	17	10	11	70	53	44
Toluca	38	9	14	15	50	49	32
Pachuca	38	10	7	21	39	55	27

Top two of each group qualify for title play-offs together with two of four third-placed teams which are due to play off.

GUATEMALA
First Division — final round (final)
1) Aurora 15 pts; 2) Comunicaciones 14; 3) Suchitepequez 11; 4) Galcasa, Amatitlan 7; 6) Dep. Izabal 6.

HONDURAS
First Division — 1st stage final
1) Herediano 45 pts; 2) Alajuelense 40; 3) Cartajines, Puntarenas 37; 5)Saprissa 35; 6) Turrialba, El Carmen 34; 8) Ramonense, Perez Seledon 30; 10) Limon 26; 11) San Carlos 21; 12) Guanacaste 16.
Top eight qualify for second stage

16 APRIL FRIDAY

ENGLAND: Manchester City are handed the suspended double punishment of a £50,000 fine plus one behind-closed-doors game as penalty for the crowd invasion which interrupted City's FA Cup quarter-final defeat by Tottenham at Maine Road.

SPAIN: The draw for the semi-finals of the Spanish Cup, to be played June 9 and 16 (or perhaps May 6 and 20), is: Real Madrid v Barcelona; and Valencia v Zaragoza . . . Maradona changes his mind: now he wants to play on at least until the 1994 World Cup finals, perhaps even with Sevilla.

17 APRIL SATURDAY

ACTION: A last-minute equaliser from Vermes brings the United States a 1-1 draw against Iceland in Costa Mesa . . . Bayern Munich's lead in Germany is reduced to one point as the leaders are held 2-2 by Borussia Monchengladbach . . . PSV Eindhoven beat Utrecht 3-1 to leapfrog over Feyenoord and back to the top of the Dutch league . . . in Italy, Milan lose a second home league game in a month, this time going down 3-1 against reviving Juventus . . . Benfica miss a chance to go top in Portugal when they are held goalless at home by Porto, who continue to lead on goal difference.

18 APRIL SUNDAY

ACTION: Arsenal win the Coca-Cola League Cup Final at Wembley, coming from behind to beat Sheffield Wednesday 2-1 with goals from Merson and Morrow — who breaks an arm in celebrations at the end of the game and cannot collect his winner's medal . . . Inter win 3-1 at Brescia to pull within five points of Italian league-leaders Milan with six games to go . . . no change in Spain, where Real Madrid and Barcelona both win.

19 APRIL MONDAY

ACTION: Kuwait beat Australia 3-1 in a World Cup warm-up in Singapore.

BRAZIL: Tele Santana of Sao Paulo is fined a nominal £10 by the CBF for his outspoken criticism of refereeing standards in Brazil. He had threatened to quit the game if he were suspended.

HOLLAND: Injury-hit Holland, without Koeman and Van Aerle, call up Blind, Vink and Bosman to their World Cup squad to face England at Wembley.

PORTUGAL: National manager Carlos Queiros names only part of his squad for the World Cup tie with Scotland. The additions will be announced after Porto's midweek Champions League tie against IFK Gothenburg.

SPAIN: Sevilla's five-man delegation, including Diego Maradona, miss a federation disciplinary inquiry into the Cadiz-Sevilla match without explanation . . . Fernando Hierro is the only Real Madrid player named in the World Cup squad to play Northern Ireland.

UNITED STATES: Footballer of the Year Marcelo Balboa is ruled out for up to six months when X-rays reveal ligament and cartilage damage to his right knee, suffered after only three minutes of Saturday's 1-1 draw against Iceland in Costa Mesa.

20 APRIL TUESDAY

JAPAN: Former Brazilian midfielder Antonio Rinaldo Goncalves signs for Panasonic Gamba Osaka in the J-League. Yomiuri Verdy sign veteran Dutch striker Hennie Meijer.

SPAIN: Toni, Brazilian forward on loan to Second Division Valladolid from Valencia, is reported to have tested positive for an anabolic steroid after the March 27 league match against Compostela . . . Sevilla president Luis Cuervas agrees he, his coaches and Argentine players, will face a federation inquiry team after being threatened with indefinite suspension for ignoring the summons to appear on Monday.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA announce a list of disciplinary measures following incidents on and off the pitch at recent World Cup games. The main points are six-month suspensions on the stadia in Cairo (after crowd trouble at the Egypt v Zimbabwe game) and Izmir (after similar problems at Turkey v England).

UNITED STATES: FIFA president Joao Havelange praises World Cup preparations after seeing over the venue at Foxboro, Massachussets.

21 APRIL WEDNESDAY

ACTION: Milan maintain their 100 per cent record in the Champions League by defeating PSV Eindhoven 2-0 in their last Group B match. Marseille will be their opponents in the Final after winning 1-0 away to Club Brugge.

ARGENTINA: Enzo Trossero withdraws his resignation as coach of Huracan.

HONDURAS: Jose Estanislao Malinowski quits as World Cup manager of Honduras in the wake of the 3-1 defeat by Canada.

ITALY: Gabriel Batistuta of Fiorentina and Napoli coach Ottavio Bianchi collect suspensions from the weekly FIGC disciplinary hearing. Batistuta is out for one league game, Bianchi must sit up in the stand for two matches . . . Milan's Jean-Pierre Papin is rated doubtful for the Champions' Cup Final because of a thigh injury.

SPAIN: The FEF announces that Diego Maradona must remain under suspension until he has attended the ongoing inquiry into the Cadiz-Sevilla pitch brawl.

22 APRIL THURSDAY

ACTION: Anterp (beating Moscow Spartak on the night and on aggregate) and Parma (beating Atletico Madrid on aggregate) qualify for the Cup-winners' Cup Final. Both clubs will be making their first appearance in a European final . . . Juventus win 1-0 away to Paris Saint-Germain (and 3-1 overall) to reach the UEFA Cup Final . . . Flamengo are held 1-1 at home by reigning champions Sao Paulo in a Libertadores Cup quarter-final first leg . . . the United States score a rare win, by 3-0 over Malaysian club side Keddah in Mission Viejo.

ITALY: Roma's Argentine striker Claudio Caniggia is banned for 13 months after testing positive for cocaine after a league match against Napoli. Roma are fined £65,000.

MEXICO: Hugo Sanchez attacks Jesus Gil after the Atletico Madrid president orders World Cup striker Luis Garcia back to Spain in the middle of the qualifying series. The Mexican federation agree to let Garcia go "so as not to harm his career in a very difficult situation."

SWITZERLAND: UEFA president Lennart Johansson withdraws his proposals for a European Superleague. But UEFA confirm that semi-finals will be appended to the Champions League next season. UEFA also decide to move their HQ from Bern to Nyon near Geneva . . . FIFA warn that Zimbabwe could be suspended from the World Cup after the Sports Ministry dismisses the ZFA general council over corruption allegations.

23 APRIL FRIDAY

ACTION: Egypt beat Malawi 2-0 in an African Nations' tie in Alexandria (played there because of the FIFA ban on Cairo).

ENGLAND: Tottenham goalkeeper Erik Thorstvedt blames the new backpass rule on an increasing number of leg muscle injuries among goalkeepers . . . Paul Gascoigne's knee plays up in training with the England World Cup squad.

FRANCE: Nantes midfielder Jean-Marc Ferri (right) is widely tipped for his national team debut in France's World Cup qualifier against Sweden.

ITALY: Uncapped Fiorentina defender Andrea Carnasciali is included in Italy's World Cup squad for the tie against Switzerland . . . Claudio Caniggia appeals against the 13-month dope test suspension.

24 APRIL SATURDAY

ACTION: In the World Cup Asian section, Qatar beat Indonesia 4-1 and North Korea beat Vietnam 1-0 . . . Zimbabwe hold South Africa in Johannesburg in an African Nations' qualifier . . . Gary Lineker's Grampus Eight lose 2-1 to Leeds in a charity friendly at Elland Road.

ITALY: Roma president Giuseppe Ciarrapico, released from prison to house arrest, says the club is not for sale.

25 APRIL SUNDAY

ACTION: World Cup action as Cyprus beat the Faroes 3-1 in Europe while, in the CONCACAF finals, Mexico thrash Canada 4-0 and Honduras beat El Salvador 2-0 . . . new controversy in Brazil where Tele Santana refuses to attend Sao Paulo's 1-0 defeat away to Santos in protest at the condition of the Santos pitch . . . AEK beat Apollon to go back to the top of the Greek championship . . . Inter beat Ancona 3-0 to narrow the gap at the top to four points, since Milan are held goalless by Udinese in the match which marks Marco Van Basten's first appearance of the year, as a second-half substitute.

ACTION: Borussia Dortmund (right) reach the UEFA Cup Final, beating Auxerre 6-5 on penalties after winning 2-0 at home to square the aggregate.

26 APRIL MONDAY

ACTION: Asian World Cup clashes include a 3-1 win for North Korea over hosts Singapore then a 4-0 victory for Qatar over Vietnam.

ENGLAND: Brian Clough ends increasing speculation when he announces he will retire as manager of Nottingham Forest at the end of the season. Clough's announcement follows hard on newspaper allegations, by a Forest director, about his drinking.

FRANCE: Marseille coach Raymond Goethals says he will retire (for the third time) after the Champions' Cup Final against Milan in Munich. But he angrily denies what he describes as "fabricated interviews" ascribing his impending departure as due to rows with president Bernard Tapie . . . Marseille goalkeeper Fabien Barthez is called into the France World Cup squad after Auxerre's Bruno Martini suffers a muscle injury.

GERMANY: In the Match of the Season Werder Bremen pull level on points at the top by thrashing leaders Bayern Munich 4-1.

ITALY: Roma give notice of appeal against the 13-month suspension imposed on Claudio Caniggia for testing positive for cocaine.

27 APRIL TUESDAY

ACTION: European Under-21 results include victories for Portugal, England, Denmark, Russia and Bulgaria. Czechoslovakia's youngsters daw 1-1 with Wales.

ARGENTINA: Boca Juniors coach Oscar Washington Tabarez quits, as he had warned he would, in protest at boardroom bickering.

ENGLAND: Real Madrid win a three-way mini-tournament at Tottenham's White Hart Lane, beating Inter 2-1 in the decisive match.

TEAM of the MONTH — Cwmbran . . .

for proving there's more to Welsh football than Cardiff and Swansea Cities.

28 APRIL WEDNESDAY

ACTION: A busy World Cup day around the world with victories for North Korea, Singapore and the UAE (in Asia) and for Bulgaria, France, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia and Spain. Three draws: Czechoslovakia 1-1 v Wales, England 2-2 v Holland and the Irish Republic 1-1 v Denmark . . . Switzerland lose 2-0 at home to Italy in a European Under-21 tie . . . Sao Paulo beat Flamengo 2-0 and 3-1 on aggregate to qualify to face Cerro Porteno in the semi-finals of the Libertadores Cup.

BELGIUM: Anderlecht win 1-0 away to Genk in a rearranged league match.

ZAMBIA: The nation is plunged into mourning when the 18-strong national team squad is wiped out in an air crash on their way to the weekend World Cup tie in Senegal. The squad are among 30 victims of the crash, soon after take-off following a refuelling stop in Libreville, Gabon. The plane crashes into the sea off the west coast of Africa. Not among the squad are Europe-based stars such as Kalusha Bwalya (PSV) and Charles Musonda (Anderlecht), who had been due to make their own travel arrangements to join up with the other players.

29 APRIL THURSDAY

ENGLAND: Paul Gascoigne undergoes surgery to repair a cheekbone fractured in a clash with Holland's Jan Wouters at Wembley in Wednesday's 2-2 World Cup draw.

ITALY: Pierluigi Casiraghi is ruled out for the rest of the season after aggravating an old muscle injury in training before Italy's weekend World Cup tie against Switzerland. Sampdoria's Roberto Mancini is called in as deputy.

MALAYSIA: Wee Yew Lee, of Second Division Armed Forces, is sentenced to two years in jail for trying to bribe his own team's goalkeeper to throw a league match. He is released on bail pending appeal.

ROMANIA: Dinamo Bucharest agree terms to sell international forward Tibor Selymesi to Cercle Bruges at the season's end.

PLAYER of the MONTH — Roberto Baggio . . .

for leading Juventus to UEFA Cup consolation for a comparatively poor domestic campaign.

SCOTLAND: Rangers' European league top scorer Ally McCoist is ruled out for the rest of the season after breaking a leg in Scotland's 5-0 World Cup beating in Portugal.

SPAIN: Bernd Schuster agrees a two-year contract with Bayer Leverkusen, which he will take up after completing the current Spanish season with Atletico Madrid.

URUGUAY: National manager Luis Cubilla writes to Italy-based Sosa, Fonseca, Herrera, Francescoli and Aguilera appealing for a truce in the two-year boycott imposed by the players on the national team in protest at Cubilla's criticisms of their displays at the 1990 World Cup finals.

ZIMBABWE: National manager Reinhard Fabisch decides to quit in protest at the cash crisis uncovered following the dismissal of key officers of the ZFA.

30 APRIL FRIDAY

ACTION: World Cup results in the Asian qualifiers include a 4-1 win for Japan over Bangladesh.

BELGIUM: Standard Liege beat Ghent 8-4 in one of the most remarkable Belgian league matches for years.

GERMANY: Bayern Munich bounce back from their beating in Bremen to thrash outgoing champions VfB Stutgart 5-3. Borussia Dortmund, preparing for the UEFA Cup Final opener, beat Saarbrucken 3-0.

SPAIN: Diego Maradona's agent, Marcos Franchi, tells Argentina manager Alfio Basile that the player will not be "in shape" for the Copa America in June but will be fit for the World Cup qualifiers two months later.

UNITED STATES: Pele (and not before time) is voted to the US Soccer Hall of Fame.

OBITUARY

TOMMY CATON, former England under-21, Manchester City, Arsenal, Oxford and Charlton defender, aged 30 after a suspected heart attack at his home. Caton had not played for two years because of ankle trouble and had been planning to retire.

PIERRE PLESSERS, former Waterschei defender and brother of ex-international Gerard Plessers, dies aged 36 after a mysterious rail accident. Plessers had been dismissed in February as player-coach of minor club FC Eksel.

ROMMEL FERNANDEZ, Panamian centre-forward who dies aged 27 in a car crash in Spain. Rommel was out on loan to Albacete from Valencia. More than 2,000 fans attended a requiem mass in his memory in Panama City.

WHAT'S ON

JUNE

SATURDAY, JUNE 5
World Cup qualifiers, Asia Group D: South Korea v Hong Kong, Bahrain v Lebanon.

SUNDAY, JUNE 6
World Cup qualifiers, Europe Group 4: Faroe Islands v Wales. **Oceania play-off 2nd leg:** Australia v New Zealand.

MONDAY, JUNE 7
World Cup qualifiers, Asia Group D: India v Bahrain, South Korea v Lebanon.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9
World Cup qualifiers, Europe Group 2: Holland v Norway. **Group 3:** Latvia v Rep. of Ireland. **Asia Group D:** Hong Kong v Lebanon, South Korea v India.

FRIDAY, JUNE 11
World Cup qualifiers, Asia Group D: India v Lebanon, Bahrain v Hong Kong.

SATURDAY, JUNE 12
World Cup qualifiers, Asia Group A: Yemen v Jordan, China v Pakistan.

SUNDAY, JUNE 13
World Cup qualifiers, Asia Group D: South Korea v Bahrain, Hong Kong v India.

MONDAY, JUNE 14
World Cup qualifiers, Asia Group A: Iraq v Jordan, Pakistan v Yemen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 15
Copa America, 1st rnd Group A: Ecuador v Venezuela (Quito).

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16
World Cup qualifiers, Europe Group 3: Lithuania v Rep. of Ireland. **Group 4:** Faroe Islands v Czechoslovakia. **Group 5:** Iceland v Hungary. **Group 6:** Finland v Israel. **Asia Group A:** China v Jordan, Iraq v Yemen.

Copa America, 1st rnd Group A: Uruguay v United States (Quito). **Group C:** Colombia v Mexico (Quito).

THURSDAY, JUNE 17
Copa America, 1st rnd Group C: Argentina v Bolivia (Ambato).

FRIDAY, JUNE 18
World Cup qualifiers, Asia Group A: Iraq v Pakistan, China v Yemen.

Copa America, 1st rnd Group B: Paraguay v Chile (Machala), Brazil v Peru (Cuenca).

SATURDAY, JUNE 19
World Cup qualifier, Europe Group 1: Portugal v Malta.

Copa America, 1st rnd Group A: Uruguay v Venezuela (Quito), Ecuador v United States (Quito).

SUNDAY, JUNE 20
World Cup qualifier, Asia Group A: Pakistan v Jordan, China v Iraq.

Copa America, 1st rnd Group C: Colombia v Bolivia (Ambato), Argentina v Mexico (Ambato).

MONDAY, JUNE 21
Copa America, 1st rnd Group B: Paraguay v Peru (Machala), Brazil v Chile (Cuenca).

TUESDAY, JUNE 22
Copa America, 1st rnd Group A: United States v Venezuela (Quito), Ecuador v Uruguay (Quito).

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23
Copa America, 1st rnd Group C: Mexico v Bolivia (Ambato), Argentina v Colombia (Ambato).

THURSDAY, JUNE 24
Copa America, 1st rnd Group B: Chile v Peru (Cuenca), Brazil v Paraguay (Cuenca).

SATURDAY, JUNE 26
Copa America, quarter-finals: Winner Gp A v 1st 3rd-placed team (Quito), Winner Gp C v 2nd Gp A (Guayaquil).

SUNDAY, JUNE 27
Copa America, quarter-finals: Winner Gp B v 2nd 3rd-placed team (Quito), 2nd Gp B v 2nd Gp C (Guayaquil).

MONDAY, JUNE 28
World Cup qualifiers, Asia Group B: Iran v Oman, Taiwan v Syria.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30
World Cup qualifiers, Asia Group B: Oman v Syria, Iran v Taiwan.
Copa America, 1st semi-final: (Guayaquil).

JULY

THURSDAY, JULY 1
Copa America, 2nd semi-final: (Guayaquil).

FRIDAY, JULY 2
World Cup qualifiers, Asia Group B: Oman v Taiwan, Iran v Syria.

SATURDAY, JULY 3
World Cup qualifiers, Africa 2nd rnd Group A: Nigeria v Algeria.
Copa America, 3rd place play-off: (Portoviejo).

SUNDAY, JULY 4
World Cup qualifiers, Africa 2nd rnd Group B: Zambia v Morocco. **Group C:** Zimbabwe v Cameroon.

Copa America, final: (Guayaquil).

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7
World Cup qualifiers, Asia Group B: Oman v Iran, Syria v Taiwan.

THURSDAY, JULY 8
World Cup qualifiers, South America Group B: Ecuador v Brazil, Venezuela v Bolivia.

BROOKING TALKBACK

BBC Radio and TV commentator TREVOR BROOKING, the former England midfielder, answers your letters. . .

Falling foul of a menace

SIR — So another fascinating episode in the soap opera of Calcio has written itself. I refer to the Claudio Caniggia doping scandal.

Both Diego Maradona and Caniggia have fallen foul of the Italian establishment, which is interesting, considering that some of their best footballing moments have been at the *expense* of the Italian establishment.

I'm not seriously suggesting that there is any substance in Maradona's childish theory that Italians are out to get Argentines — look at the happiness Abel Balbo is now enjoying with life in Italy. Nor am I suggesting that either Maradona or Caniggia was innocent.

However, I find it impossible to believe that they were the only two to have taken cocaine: the ridiculous sums paid to Serie A footballers must make drugs a huge temptation.

Considering the appalling revelations recently made about the Italian government, is it too far-fetched to suggest that someone in a high place may have lent a hand in their downfall?

— MICHAEL GALVEN, Canterbury, Kent.

● YOU have certainly outlined an interesting theory, and you could well have the basic framework for a best-selling novel if the storyline developed as you suggest.

It is impossible to speculate on the extent of the drug problem in football, but with regards to Maradona and Caniggia there can be little sympathy because they were caught and found guilty.

You may well be right that there are other non-Argentine players who have not yet been exposed, but I'm sure the football authorities themselves are desperately keen to stop any further abuses developing.

There must be a stringent testing programme throughout the footballing world so that players realise how foolish it would be to risk experimenting with any type of stimulant.

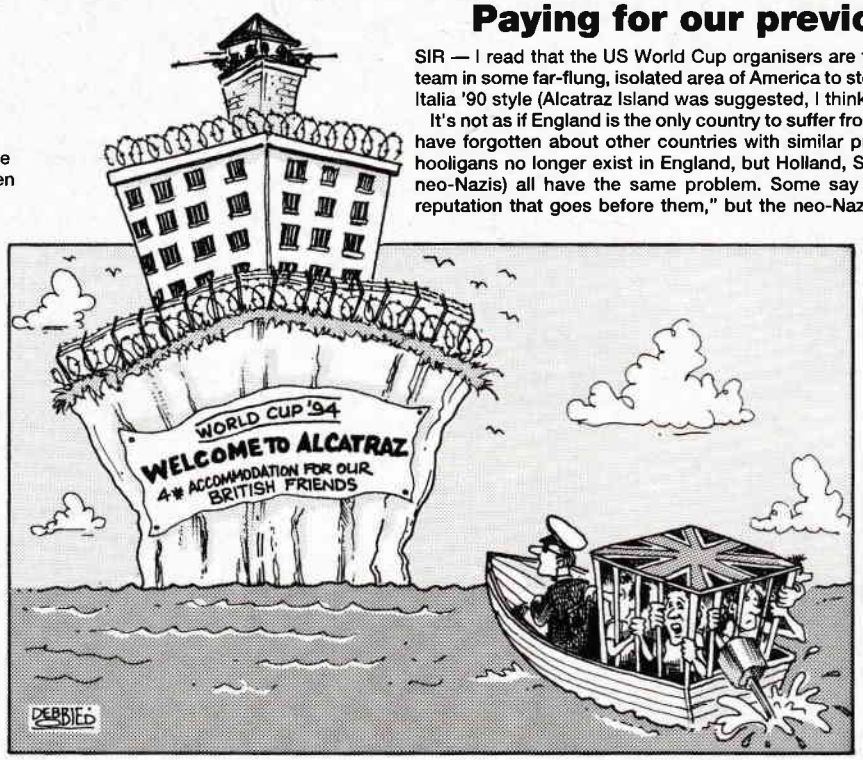
Paying for our previous faults

SIR — I read that the US World Cup organisers are thinking of putting the English team in some far-flung, isolated area of America to stop any chance of hooliganism, Italia '90 style (Alcatraz Island was suggested, I think).

It's not as if England is the only country to suffer from this disease. The organisers have forgotten about other countries with similar problems. I am not saying that hooligans no longer exist in England, but Holland, Spain and Germany (especially neo-Nazis) all have the same problem. Some say about the English, "It's their reputation that goes before them," but the neo-Nazis haven't exactly got a good reputation have they?

I cannot see the holders Germany being forced to play in some remote part of the States. Can you?

— MARTIN LEWIS, 7 Denham Way, Barking, Essex, IGII 9SH.



● I agree with your point about England being far from the worst as far as hooliganism is concerned. We have made enormous strides and are often consulted by other countries seeking help as their own situation deteriorates.

Once a clearer picture emerges of the likely World Cup qualifiers, then perhaps a sensible lobbying process can begin.

Far too rigid

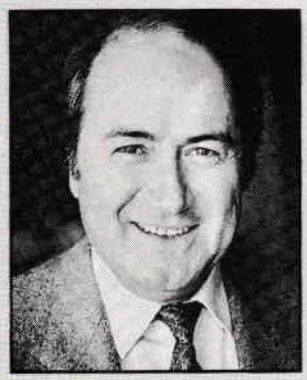
SIR — One of the greatest things about soccer is its unpredictability. Compared to most sports here in North America, where the majority of the plays look almost identical to each other, soccer demands a much further-ranging set of skills from the players.

Most importantly they require patience and flexibility of mind absent in many other sports.

Sepp Blatter (right) and company are out to convert soccer into a sport consisting of one set piece after another.

Next they are going to tell players to put on shoulder pads and throw the ball to each other!

Eliminating the throw-in is eliminating a part of soccer that keeps the game diversified and challenging; with all respect to American sports, diversity of skills is



something none of their games can claim to require. If FIFA are so interested in expanding the boundaries of soccer, why don't they concentrate on promoting it further in Asia?

— DAVID DELFINI, 1400 Greenbriar Drive, Oakville, Ontario, Canada, L6M IZ9.

● SOCCER does provide an opportunity for any person to be successful, regardless of height, weight or shape. Skill can be developed to a great extent if the person is willing to listen, learn and devote plenty of time to practice.

This emphasis on skill training for youngsters would improve the quality of players available, and would be far more beneficial than switching the throw-in to a kick-in. The additional skill associated with speed of thought is vital in both coach and player, but to switch to kick-ins would surely encourage the aimless boot towards the penalty area, where the sound of clattering heads and bodies would hardly offer worthy entertainment value.

On the subject of Asia I believe there are huge advances under way already.

Time to change

SIR — The United States seems to be blamed by *WORLD SOCCER* writers for the changes being made ("leave our game alone") to football.

Football is entertainment and should change with the times.

The change in the back-pass rule was a good start. If they moved the offside line to about 25 metres, maybe we would encourage the truly creative side of football.

— THOMAS SHAW, Dallas, Texas, US.

● I don't believe we are blaming the United States, but instead are questioning whether FIFA are panicking somewhat about trying to project the game of soccer as the ultimate entertainment package for the American media, before the 1994 World Cup.

Tell Trevor . . .

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● Comments are Trevor Brooking's opinions and do not necessary reflect *WORLD SOCCER'S* views. He will answer only those letters published.

Calls cost UK 36p/minute cheap rate and 48p/minute at all other times.

Zambian loss

SIR — After hearing of the enthusiasm for football in many African countries, I was shocked and saddened to learn of the plane crash which killed most of the Zambian team.

The heart of their squad has been wiped out, and the sense of loss for the players, officials and fans must be overwhelming. I hope that the players' relatives, friends and team-mates can grieve without finding their distress unbearable.

The minute's silence before the Ireland v Denmark game was perfectly observed to a man, and I wish that the same could have been said for the England v Holland game.

— JONATHAN LEWIS, 254 Hawes Lane, West Wickham, Kent, BR4 9AQ.

● I am sure all genuine football supporters were deeply saddened by such a tragic loss of life.

We can all relate to the terrible grief African people must have suffered. As a mark of respect a minute's silence was observed at a number of matches apart from those you mentioned.

Sadly, all too often there are a few mindless individuals who find it impossible to keep quiet, but the majority do manage to bring a certain dignity to the occasion.

Sky disgrace

SIR — The earliest England match I recall watching on TV was the Hungary game in which qualification was gained for the 1982 World Cup Finals. The most recent was the Poland match (above), in which qualification was gained for Euro '92.

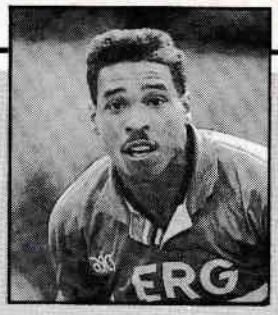
I had to settle for highlights of the recent England v Holland match because I don't have Satellite TV. It is a disgrace that Sky TV prevent me and many others from watching England.

— TREVOR BLAND, 23 Saunton Road, Billingham, Cleveland.

● I can understand your frustration, although the reason is not entirely down to satellite TV. Nearly all internationals at Wembley used to be virtual sell-outs and so there was no concern about them being televised "live" as well.

Then gradually the crowds attending began to decrease, and so the FA started to restrict the number shown in full.

They understandably felt the performance of players would be enhanced by doing this, and so rather than have Wembley half-empty, controlled the coverage available on the major broadcasting channels. But that argument does not stand up with regard to the away games.



Forest failure

SIR — Throughout the Premier League's debut season we fans were told that it's sad for football to see a good footballing side like Nottingham Forest in the relegation zone, and they were too good to go down.

Complete rubbish! Forest played, or tried to play, good football with not so good players. They sold Walker (above), Wassall and Sheringham and didn't replace them. Without Pearce, Keane and Clough (who was played woefully out of position) they would have been relegated by February.

I am not trying to say there is no room for good football in the Premier League. I am just stating that Forest went down simply because their team was not good enough.

— BARRY McELDUFF, 9 Devenish Crescent, Enniskillen, N. Ireland, BT 74 5JP.

● YOUR letter spells out the harsh facts of reality because by the end of season they were bottom, and all of nine points adrift of Crystal Palace, who unluckily were relegated on goal difference.

It was very sad to see manager Brian Clough retire after such a poor season.

Despite that, the game will be much poorer for Clough's absence. I thank him for the memories — we wish him well.

Not too close

SIR — With reference to Brian Glanville's continued objection to women's football being admitted to the Olympic Games, I'm astonished that he should have such a dated and narrow viewpoint.

For a man who apparently has a depth of appreciation for sport and fair play, I cannot fathom why Mr Glanville will not give women's participation in Olympic soccer a sporting chance.

I feel that women in the Olympics can only contribute to the continued success of this "beautiful game".

— MARGARET CROWLEY, 9 Beaumont Cottages, Ballintemple, Cork.

● BRIAN'S "fan mail" has given him a clear indication he won't be receiving too many birthday cards from the female soccer contingent!

I certainly don't see any problem with women's football in general, and as well as the increased numbers playing, the quality is definitely improving.

The commercial demands for sponsorship mean the organisers seem intent on expansion for the sake of it. I believe soccer must retain its identity and keep very much at arm's length.

PENPALS

ITALIAN boy, 15, seeks Sheff Wed fans. Write in English/Italian.
— Francesco Porciani, Via C. Murialdo 132, 01100 Uiterebo, Italy.

SOCCER and swimming fan, 21, seeks penfriends anywhere.
— Miss Sala Yakubu (21), PO Box 1148, Sunyani, Ghana.

FOOTBALL fan, 21, seeks penpals who support Hammarby, Stoke and Parma. All letters answered.
— Per Antonsson, Ga Huddinger, 445, 125 42 Alvsjo, Sweden.

SOCCER FAN, 24, seeks penpals writing French, preferably from GB, Italy, Belgium, US and Canada.
— Ayefoiunin Yaovi Tinin, s/c M. Alandou A. Almoniou, Dept. Telecommunication, 9 rue S/Lt Guillemard, BP 765, Lome, Togo.

GREEK soccer fan wants penpals all over Europe, particularly Italy.
— George Margaritis, 12 Kastritsiou St., 54623 Thessaloniki, Macedonia, Greece.

PENPALS wanted, m/f, by 19-year-old football supporter. All answered promptly.
— Matandalizwe-lo-Kankhuni, PO Box 30359, Chirrchiri, Bt. 3, Malawi.

TONGOLESE refugee, soccer crazy, seeks penfriends writing English/French.
— Francis Agbodjan-Sewa, c/o Raymond Agbodjan, SOTREC PO Box 40 TUC, Accra, Ghana.

EXCHANGES

FOOTBALL tickets, badges, pennants, stickers etc for exchange. Write in English, please.
— Stephan Hoogerwaard, Pieter Langendjkstr. 112, 2533 TM, Den Haag, Holland.

METAL badges wanted to exchange.
— Zbynek Ledvinka, J. Kociana 1154, 27201 Kladno 2, Czech Republic.

KIEV DYNAMO fan wants to swap souvenirs (badges, etc) with fans anywhere.
— Anatolij Babin, Vasilija Porika Street, 17-6, Flat 19, Kiev 2-8, 254208 Ukraine.

FOOTBALL fan and collector wants to exchange memorabilia worldwide.
— Tomasz Metz, Szymkiewicza 11, 30-860 Krakow, Poland.

TICKETS for Cup Finals, international matches, programmes, stamps etc. for exchange.
— Roland Sevenhant, Zandstraat 419, B-8200 Sint-Andries, Belgium.

ENGLAND, Italy and Brazil fans seeks to exchange magazines, shirts etc.
— Ashot Kesishian, Alikhanian Str. 10 apt 12, Yerevan 375076, Armenia.

T-SHIRTS, posters etc for exchange with 16-year-old fan.
— Clemence Tshuma, Calky Products, 106, PO Box 737, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

ECUADORIAN journalist seeing to exchange football shirts and badges.
— Patricio Cornejo, Av. Principal No. 505 y Octavia (Ceibos), Guayaquil, Ecuador.

BRITISH football badges wanted for exchange.
— Roman Casatochin, Uliza Vinokurova 17-1-20, Moscow 113447, Russia.

FOR EXCHANGE: pennants, badges, photos of teams and grounds.
— Matay Detre, H-8200 Veszprem, Marcius W. u. 1/C II/10, Hungary.

DOCTOR and football fan wants to exchange football jerseys with fans in Europe.
— Jose Luiz Monteiro, CP 192, 07.400-970, Aruja SP, Brazil.

ALL LETTERS answered by fan seeking to swap Spanish badges, flags and photos for British.
— Jose Vicente Gonzales, Bouzavella 100, 36340 Panjon, Pontevedra, Spain.

ORIGINAL shirts of Italy, Brazil, Germany and Russia for exchange with UK club fans, also stadium postcards.
— Fabrizio Pugi, Via Verga 27, 50047 Prato, Italy.

PSG, Man United and Osasuna fans wants to exchange posters.
— Craig Whitaker, 12 Byron Road, Greenmount, Bury, Lancashire.

MATCH tickets wanted for exchange, any country.
— Gregory Adant, Rue de Bienne 43, B-7133 Buvrinnes, Belgium.

WANTED

WORLD SOCCER, July 1992.
— Andrea Guarducci, 847 S. Great Bend Dr., Diamond Bar, California, 91765-2050 US.

PSG shirt size 40/42, 91-92 season, home. Also videos (PAL) of PSG in Europe.
— Garry Crawford, 61 Kenmount Drive, Kennoway, Fife, Scotland.

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SHOOT ***Out every Tuesday***

Hong Kong

Whitehurst returns

WE ALL knew that South China would bounce back. But the speed of the revival took everybody by surprise.

South China lost 5-0 to Eastern in a Hong Kong League game, and 4-0 in the Challenge Shield final.

But they drew 1-1 in the league return. Then defeated Eastern 3-0 to capture the Viceroy Cup.

Officials of the South China club are congratulating themselves on the success of their team shake-up. Thanks largely to Billy Whitehurst (right) and Anton Grabo.

Whitehurst, who appeared to be winding down his career with Glentoran in Northern Ireland, is a former Hull City and Sunderland striker who has unsettled every defence so far in the Crown Colony.

Bosnian Grabo arrived having completed a stint in Malaysia with Kuala Lumpur.

He ran Eastern ragged from midfield in the Viceroy Cup and laid on all three goals, two for Loh Wai-chi and one for Whitehurst.

Despite the loss of Chan Wai-chiu, sent off in the 73rd minute, South China comfortably ended Eastern's 19-game unbeaten run.

Unfortunately a nasty edge has developed in the rivalry between the clubs. In protest at what South China official Bruce Mok termed "the unhealthy influence of Eastern on the national set-up", his club withdrew their five players from the squad chosen for World Cup qualifying games in Lebanon and South Korea. Eight Easterners were named in the party.

Solomon Islands

HONIARA'S Lawson Tama Stadium staged that rarest of events — an Oceania tournament in which New Zealand did not meet Australia in the final.

Hosts Solomon Islands created a surprise by defeating New Zealand 2-1 in the semi-finals of the region's Under-17 Cup.

Australia, however, won the final 3-1 and will again represent Oceania at the World Under-17 World Cup in Japan next month.

India

Bagan best again

MOHUN BAGAN of Calcutta have added yet another Cup to their collection.

They defeated Mahindra and Mahindra of Bombay 1-0 to retain the All-India Federation Cup.

The goal was scored by V.P. Sathyan, midfielder and Indian captain, in the 39th minute.

There is no national league in India. The national championship is contested between provinces — State Associations affiliated to AIFF — and club leagues are played at district or state level.

The Federation Cup is the national knock-out event, and the winners play in the Asian Cup-winners' Cup.

This year's contest, the 17th, comprised 12 clubs — the "Big three" of Calcutta, Mohan Bagan, East Bengal and Mohammedan SC, three each from Goa and Kerala, and one each from Bombay, Madras and Bangalore, and the tournament was in a league-cum-knockout basis.

Mohun Bagan beat Kerala Police 1-0 in one semi-final, and Mahindra overcame East Bengal in a shoot-out in the other.

C.V. Pappachan, Kerala Police and India striker (right), won the Malayala Manorama Golden Ball for best player.

BHASI MALAPARAMBA

Barkley ineligible for his 30 caps

STRIKER Noel Barkley played for New Zealand in the 1988 Olympics and 1990 World Cup qualifying tournaments . . . when he should not have done so.

Barkley was ineligible, because his appearances for Northern Ireland's youth team in the early 1980s were overlooked by the NZFA when they selected him for over 30 games, mainly friendlies, between 1986 and 1991.

FIFA regulations state that no player can appear for one country, having previously represented another, in competitions under their jurisdiction.

Barkley's youth caps have been proclaimed in club and international match programmes since 1983, when he migrated to join Mount Maunganui.

The NZFA claim to have unearthed his Irish record only this year, when checking the availably of another Belfast native, Tony Ferris, and the anomaly was not revealed until coach Ian Marshall explained their surprise omissions to a journalist.

The Kiwis were eliminated in the early stages of both FIFA competitions Barkley featured in, but FIFA may now decide to penalise New Zealand.

New Zealand and Australia flew to Singapore for friendly internationals as part of their World Cup preparations.

Saudi Arabia beat the Kiwis 3-1 and 1-0, but must be concerned by the lax showing during in second encounter, when they conceded two penalties and both were missed. Striker Billy Wright was sent off early in the second half.

The only bright spot for New Zealand in an otherwise drab first clash was the form of Harry Ngata, the Maori striker who spent two seasons with Hull City. He celebrated an impressive debut with his team's goal.

Australia beat Kuwait 1-0 with a goal by Paul Trimboli, but lost the second match 3-1. The Socceroos comprised solely home-based players, and coach Eddie Thomson is likely to field a side dominated by European professionals for the World Cup fixtures.

Saudi Arabia

Double tragedy for leaders

AL ITTIFAQ, leaders of the Saudi Arabian league at halfway, must continue their attempt on the title without two players killed in the Zambian air disaster.

Kevin Motale and Derby Mankinka had scored 10 of the 15 goals that had put Al Ittifaq in first place with 14 points from nine games. They led on goal difference from Al Ahly, but had two matches in hand.

The two players had been released to play for Zambia, and died when the team's plane crashed off the coast of Gabon.

Al Ittifaq face a tough job in retaining their lead, especially as Al Shabab and Al Hilal have played only six matches so far, because of participation in the Asian and Arab club championships.

Al Shabab had nine points and were fourth in the 12-club table, with Al Hilal seventh on eight points.

Brazilian Nelsinho has lost his job as coach to the Saudi national team, with a 2-0 defeat by the United States in Riyadh proving one loss too many for the federation to bear.

Nelsinho was perhaps unlucky. His record of nine wins and four draws in 19 games was no cause for shame.

Another Brazilian, Candinho, former coach of Al Hilal, has taken over the national squad.

Unfortunate . . . Nelsinho.

SAUDI ARABIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Ittifaq	9	6	2	1	15	7	14
Al Ahly	11	5	4	2	16	10	14
Al Ittihad	11	5	3	3	13	9	13
Al Shabab	6	3	3	0	7	3	9
Al Riyadh	10	2	5	3	11	9	9
Al Raed	9	4	1	4	7	8	9
Al Hilal	6	3	2	1	16	8	8
Al Tai	11	1	6	4	12	17	8
Al Nasr	10	3	2	5	6	11	8
Al Qadsia	10	3	2	5	8	19	8
Al Wehda	10	2	3	5	8	11	7
Al Neejmeh	11	2	3	6	10	17	7

MOHAMED CHBARO

Japan

Jinno's winner

STRIKER Takuya Jinno beat the odds and a crowd of 110,000 passionate Iranians to give Yokohama Marinos their second consecutive Asian Cup-winners' Cup.

Their 1-0 away win ensured a 2-1 aggregate victory.

Marinos were up against it from the start at Tehran's National Stadium, after Pirouzi's away goal in Japan.

Ramon Diaz and David Bisconti strengthened the team, but national team goalkeeper Shigetatsu Matsunaga, defenders Masami Ihara, Norio Omura and Toshinobu Kalsuya and striker Takahiro Yamada were missing on World Cup duty.

Manager Hidehiko Shimizu spoke of using the match as a mere warm-up for the J.League, but instead his side produced an heroic performance, capped by Jinno's 70th-minute header.

Jinno is on the verge of the national squad and, Marinos can be grateful that he was spared this time.

MIKE PLASTOW

Syria

Fergel in charge

SYRIA played eight friendly internationals in a two-month spell leading up to the start of their World Cup qualification attempt this month.

Under new coach Ioan Fergel, the Romanian who has replaced Russian Anatoli Ibrahimov, the Syrians won only two of the matches and drew three, but only one of the eight was at home and hopes remain relatively high.

Much depends on the support given to Monaf Ramadan of Al Horria, the champions and Cup-winners last season. He scored four of his country's eight goals.

Syria compete in Group B of the World Cup Asian section, against Iran, Oman and Taiwan.

Jordan, who face China, Pakistan and Yemen in Group A, had seven friendly matches in preparation, winning three and drawing three.

Their only defeat was against Lebanon, who won 3-2 in Beirut.

South Africa

New coach quits Chiefs

DEFENDING NSL League champions Kaizer Chiefs made a confident start to their African Champions' Cup campaign, with the core of the national team in their squad.

Then, something almost unheard of, they lost three league games in a row — 3-2 to Pretoria City, 2-1 to Moroka Swallows, and 2-1 to Bloemfontein Celtic.

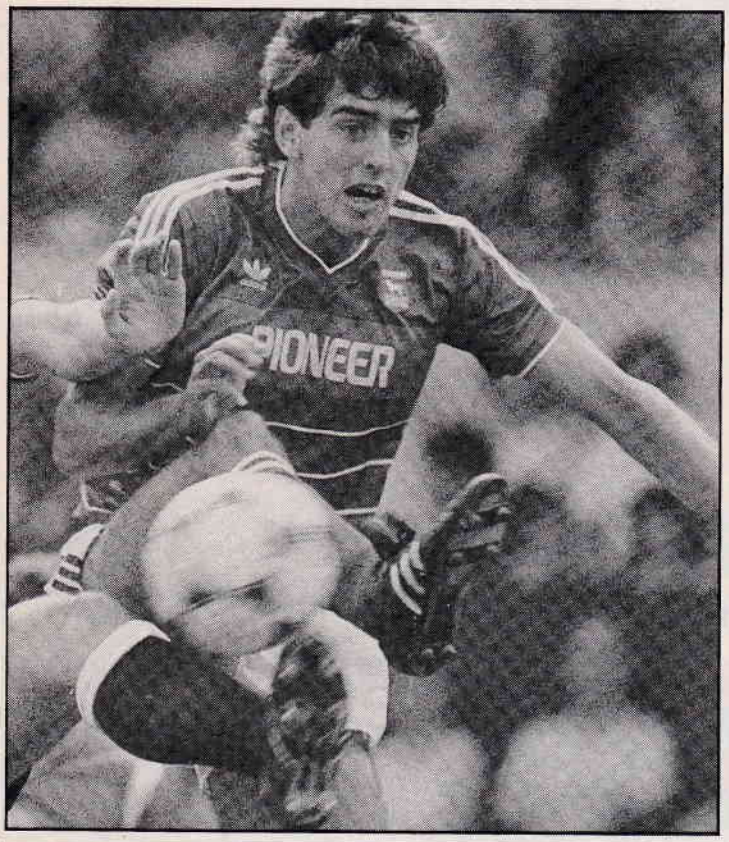
That left Chiefs in mid-table with a lot of ground to recover.

Former player Sergio Dos Santos, who arrived as coach from Cape Town Spurs at the start of the season, resigned under pressure following the Swallows defeat and chief-executive Kaizer Motaung is now urgently seeking a replacement, as the Champions' Cup battle with Egyptians Zamalek draws near.

Assistant coach Nelson Diadia and former skipper Howard Friese, are working in a caretaker role.

Moroka Swallows, also from Soweto, pulled clear at the top. Mich D'Avray, the former Ipswich and NEC Nijmegen centre-forward (below), has played a leading role.

BARRY **BAKER**



Egypt

Champions still ahead

CHAMPIONS Al Zamalek had a six-point lead halfway through the Egyptian programme, having won 11 and drawn two of their 13 games.

Al Mehalla were second and Al Ahly, the Cup holders, were third, one point further back.

EGYPT

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Zamalek	13	11	2	0	24	4	24
Al Mehalla	13	6	6	1	13	8	18
Al Ahly	13	6	5	2	18	7	17
Al Mesri	13	4	7	2	13	7	15
Olympic	13	4	7	2	15	14	15
Al Qanat	12	4	6	2	5	5	14
Al Ismaili	12	4	5	3	6	4	13
Shebin	13	3	5	5	10	12	11
Baladiyyat	13	3	5	5	9	11	11
Al Ittihad	13	2	6	5	6	10	10
Al Merriekh	13	2	6	5	7	12	10
Al Menia	13	1	6	6	7	18	8
Tanta	13	2	4	7	7	19	8
Railways	13	0	6	7	5	15	6

MOHAMED **CHBARO**

Tunisia

Easy for Esperance

THE Tunisian title was decided with five matches still to go, when Esperance Sportive of Tunis kept their unbeaten record and defeated Club Africain 2-1 in a vital meeting.

This was EST's 16th victory, to go with five draws, and a goal difference of 37-11.

Kairouan, a much smaller club, were then ten points behind and with far worse scoring figures.

Club Africain's defeat by their city rivals condemned them to third place, as well as confirming EST as champions for the fifth time in nine years.

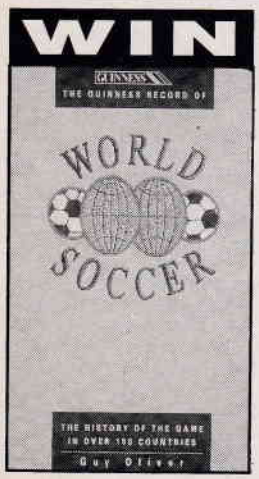
Monastir looked likely to finish last of the 14 clubs, having taken only 16 points. Five others were level on 18.

● Wydad Casablanca have an excellent chance to keep the Moroccan championship, leading by five points with a game in hand and two-thirds of the season over.

● The title race in Algeria is remarkably close. With most of the 20 clubs having played 20 games, only nine points separated leaders US Chaouia from bottom club MOC. The top scorers, MC Oran, had scored only 25 times and were in third place.

TUNISIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Esperance	21	16	5	0	37	11	37
JS Kairouan	21	11	5	5	28	17	27
Club Africain	21	7	8	6	25	21	22
CS Hammam-Lif	21	8	6	7	18	20	22
Ol. Beja	21	8	5	8	26	24	21
OC Kerkennah	21	7	6	8	25	24	20
CS Sfaxien	21	7	6	8	23	25	20
Stade Tunisien	21	5	9	7	20	23	19
SR Sports	21	6	6	9	22	23	18
CA Bizerte	21	6	6	9	21	24	18
El Sahel	21	7	4	10	23	27	18
AS Marsa	21	6	6	9	19	25	18
AS Kasserine	21	6	6	9	16	24	18
US Monastir	21	5	6	10	15	30	16



WORLDWIDE QUIZ

AT LAST — a female winner! Mrs Lynne MacNeall of Blackburn takes a Guinness Record of World Soccer prize with an all-correct entry.

Could be your turn to win a copy of the book this month. Answers on a postcard please to Worldwide Quiz at the usual address, to reach us by June 25. This month's questions start below.

June answers:

1 .... Steve Daley (Wolves to Manchester City in 1979).
2 .... Lillestrom of Norway.
3 .... FA Amateur Cup winner's medal with Bishop Auckland.
4 .... Ferencvaros, Hungary.
5 .... Manchester United.
6 .... Six, in a 6-2 win.
7 .... Sierra Leone.
8 .... Mike Belfield of Kuusysi Lahti, Finland.
9 .... Instal floodlights.
10 .. Union Espanola, in 1975.

1. How many of the players who began the 1979 FA Cup Final had been born in England?

2. The first international at Wembley to be played entirely under floodlights was between England and which other country?

3. In which year did Hampden Park stage two matches on successive Saturdays with attendances that both topped 146,000?

4. Name the England international who scored eight goals in a European Cup-winners' Cup tie.

5. Who scored a goal in a time officially recorded as 15 seconds in Chile 1962, for Czechoslovakia against Mexico?

6. Real Madrid won the Champions' Cup in all its first five seasons. How many managers did they have in that time?

7. Who won the annual FIFA Fair Play prize in 1991?

8. Which divisional Manager of the Year for 1991-92 was sacked in May 1993?

9. Name the English goalkeeper who was transferred twice in five months during the 1960s, for the same record fee.

10. Which country beat Scotland 3-1 at Aberdeen in 1989-90?

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1994 WORLD CUP QUALIFYING GROUPS

EUROPE

38 entries (39 members, Liechtenstein withdrew)

● *Top two teams in each Group qualify for finals (Germany qualify as holders).*

GROUP 1

16.08.92	Estonia v Switzerland	0-6
09.09.92	Switzerland v Scotland	3-1
14.10.92	Italy v Switzerland	2-2
14.10.92	Scotland v Portugal	0-0
25.10.92	Malta v Estonia	0-0
18.11.92	Scotland v Italy	0-0
18.11.92	Switzerland v Malta	3-0
19.12.92	Malta v Italy	1-2
24.01.93	Malta v Portugal	0-1
17.02.93	Scotland v Malta	3-0
24.02.93	Portugal v Italy	1-3
24.03.93	Italy v Malta	6-1
31.03.93	Switzerland v Portugal	1-1
14.04.93	Italy v Estonia	2-0
17.04.93	Malta v Switzerland	0-2
28.04.93	Portugal v Scotland	5-0
01.05.93	Switzerland v Italy	1-0
12.05.93	Estonia v Malta	0-1
19.05.93	Estonia v Scotland	0-3
02.06.93	Scotland v Estonia	
19.06.93	Portugal v Malta	
05.09.93	Estonia v Portugal	
08.09.93	Scotland v Switzerland	
22.09.93	Estonia v Italy	
13.10.93	Portugal v Switzerland	
13.10.93	Italy v Scotland	
10.11.93	Portugal v Estonia	
17.11.93	Italy v Portugal	
17.11.93	Malta v Scotland	
17.11.93	Switzerland v Estonia	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	7	5	2	0	18	4	12
Italy	7	4	2	1	15	6	10
Portugal	5	2	2	1	8	4	6
Scotland	6	2	2	2	7	8	6
Malta	8	1	1	6	3	17	3
Estonia	5	0	1	4	0	12	1

GROUP 2

09.09.92	Norway v San Marino	10-0
23.09.92	Norway v Holland	2-1
23.09.92	Poland v Turkey	1-0
07.10.92	San Marino v Norway	0-2
14.10.92	England v Norway	1-1
14.10.92	Holland v Poland	2-2
28.10.92	Turkey v San Marino	4-1
18.11.92	England v Turkey	4-0
16.12.92	Turkey v Holland	1-3
17.02.93	England v San Marino	6-0
24.02.93	Holland v Turkey	3-1
10.03.93	San Marino v Turkey	0-0
24.03.93	Holland v San Marino	6-0
31.03.93	Turkey v England	0-2
28.04.93	England v Holland	2-2
28.04.93	Norway v Turkey	3-1
28.04.93	Poland v San Marino	1-0
19.05.93	San Marino v Poland	0-3
29.05.93	Poland v England	
02.06.93	Norway v England	
09.06.93	Holland v Norway	
08.09.93	England v Poland	
22.09.93	Norway v Poland	
22.09.93	San Marino v Holland	
13.10.93	Holland v England	
13.10.93	Poland v Norway	
27.10.93	Turkey v Poland	
10.11.93	Turkey v Norway	
16.11.93	San Marino v England	
17.11.93	Poland v Holland	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norway	5	4	1	0	18	3	9
England	5	3	2	0	15	3	8
Holland	6	3	2	1	17	8	8
Poland	4	3	1	0	7	2	7
Turkey	8	1	1	6	7	17	3
San Marino	8	0	1	7	1	32	1

GROUP 3

22.04.92	Spain v Albania	3-0
28.04.92	Northern Ireland v Lithuania	2-2
26.05.92	Rep. of Ireland v Albania	2-0
03.06.92	Albania v Lithuania	1-0
12.08.92	Latvia v Lithuania	1-2
26.08.92	Latvia v Denmark	0-0
09.09.92	Rep. of Ireland v Latvia	4-0
09.09.92	Northern Ireland v Albania	3-0
23.09.92	Latvia v Spain	0-0
23.09.92	Lithuania v Denmark	0-0
14.10.92	Denmark v Rep. of Ireland	0-0
14.10.92	Northern Ireland v Spain	0-0
28.10.92	Lithuania v Latvia	1-1
11.11.92	Albania v Latvia	1-1
18.11.92	Northern Ireland v Denmark	0-1
18.11.92	Spain v Rep. of Ireland	0-0
16.12.92	Spain v Latvia	5-0
17.02.93	Albania v Northern Ireland	1-2
24.02.93	Spain v Lithuania	5-0
31.03.93	Denmark v Spain	1-0
31.03.93	Rep. of Ireland v N. Ireland	3-0
14.04.93	Denmark v Latvia	2-0
14.04.93	Lithuania v Albania	3-1
28.04.93	Rep. of Ireland v Denmark	1-1
28.04.93	Spain v Northern Ireland	3-1
15.05.93	Latvia v Albania	0-0
25.05.93	Lithuania v Northern Ireland	0-1
26.05.93	Albania v Rep. of Ireland	1-2
02.06.93	Denmark v Albania	
02.06.93	Latvia v Northern Ireland	
02.06.93	Lithuania v Spain	
09.06.93	Latvia v Rep. of Ireland	
16.06.93	Lithuania v Rep. of Ireland	
25.08.93	Denmark v Lithuania	
08.09.93	Albania v Denmark	
08.09.93	Rep. of Ireland v Lithuania	
08.09.93	Northern Ireland v Latvia	
22.09.93	Albania v Spain	
13.10.93	Denmark v Northern Ireland	
13.10.93	Rep. of Ireland v Spain	
17.11.93	N. Ireland v Rep. of Ireland	
17.11.93	Spain v Denmark	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	8	4	3	1	16	2	11
Rep. of Ireland	7	4	3	0	11	2	11
Denmark	7	3	4	0	5	1	10
N. Ireland	8	3	2	3	9	9	8
Lithuania	8	2	3	4	8	12	7
Latvia	9	0	5	4	3	15	5
Albania	9	1	2	6	5	16	4

GROUP 4

22.04.92	Belgium v Cyprus	1-0
06.05.92	Romania v Faroe Islands	7-0
20.05.92	Romania v Wales	5-1
03.06.92	Faroe Islands v Belgium	0-3
18.06.92	Faroe Islands v Cyprus	0-2
02.09.92	Czechoslovakia v Belgium	1-2
09.09.92	Wales v Faroe Islands	6-0
23.09.92	Czechoslovakia v Faroe Islands	4-0
14.10.92	Belgium v Romania	1-0
14.10.92	Cyprus v Wales	0-1
14.11.92	Romania v Czechoslovakia	1-1
18.11.92	Belgium v Wales	2-0
29.11.92	Cyprus v Romania	1-4
13.02.93	Cyprus v Belgium	0-3
24.03.93	Cyprus v Czechoslovakia	1-1
31.03.93	Wales v Belgium	2-0
14.04.93	Romania v Cyprus	2-1
25.04.93	Cyprus v Faroe Islands	3-1
28.04.93	Czechoslovakia v Wales	1-1
22.05.93	Belgium v Faroe Islands	3-0
02.06.93	Czechoslovakia v Romania	
06.06.93	Faroe Islands v Wales	
16.06.93	Faroe Islands v Czechoslovakia	
08.09.93	Wales v Czechoslovakia	
08.09.93	Faroe Islands v Romania	
13.10.93	Romania v Belgium	
13.10.93	Wales v Cyprus	
27.10.93	Czechoslovakia v Cyprus	
17.11.93	Wales v Romania	
17.11.93	Belgium v Czechoslovakia	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	8	7	0	1	15	3	14
Romania	6	4	1	1	19	5	9
Wales	6	3	1	2	11	8	7
Czechoslovakia	5	1	3	1	8	5	5
Cyprus	8	2	1	5	8	13	5
Faroe Islands	7	0	0	7	1	28	0

Action from the 2-2 draw between Hong Kong and Lebanon in Beirut.

GROUP 5

13.05.92	Greece v Iceland	1-0
03.06.92	Hungary v Iceland	1-2
09.09.92	Luxembourg v Hungary	0-3
07.10.92	Iceland v Greece	0-1
14.10.92	Russia v Iceland	1-0
28.10.92	Russia v Luxembourg	2-0
11.11.92	Greece v Hungary	0-0
17.02.93	Greece v Luxembourg	2-0
31.03.93	Hungary v Greece	0-1
14.04.93	Luxembourg v Russia	0-4
28.04.93	Russia v Hungary	3-0
20.05.93	Luxembourg v Iceland	1-1
23.05.93	Russia v Greece	1-1
02.06.93	Iceland v Russia	
16.06.93	Iceland v Hungary	
08.09.93	Hungary v Russia	
08.09.93	Iceland v Luxembourg	
12.10.93	Luxembourg v Greece	
27.10.93	Hungary v Luxembourg	
17.11.93	Greece v Russia	

★ *Yugoslavia excluded due to UN sanctions.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GREECE	6	4	2	0	6	1	10
Russia	5	4	1	0	11	1	9
Hungary	5	1	1	3	4	6	3
Iceland	5	1	1	3	3	5	3
Luxembourg	5	0	1	4	1	12	1

GROUP 6

14.05.92	Finland v Bulgaria	0-3
09.09.92	Bulgaria v France	2-0
09.09.92	Finland v Sweden	0-1
07.10.92	Sweden v Bulgaria	2-0
14.10.92	France v Austria	2-0
28.10.92	Austria v Israel	5-2
11.11.92	Israel v Sweden	1-3
14.11.92	France v Finland	2-1
02.12.92	Israel v Bulgaria	0-2
17.02.93	Israel v France	0-4
27.03.93	Austria v France	0-1
14.04.93	Austria v Bulgaria	3-1
28.04.93	France v Sweden	2-1
28.04.93	Bulgaria v Finland	2-0
12.05.93	Bulgaria v Israel	2-2
13.05.93	Finland v Austria	3-1
19.05.93	Sweden v Austria	1-0
02.06.93	Sweden v Israel	
16.06.93	Finland v Israel	
22.08.93	Sweden v France	
25.08.93	Austria v Finland	
08.09.93	Finland v France	
08.09.93	Bulgaria v Sweden	
13.10.93	France v Israel	
13.10.93	Bulgaria v Austria	
13.10.93	Sweden v Finland	
27.20.93	Israel v Austria	
10.11.93	Austria v Sweden	
10.11.93	Israel v Finland	
17.11.93	France v Bulgaria	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	6	5	0	1	11	4	10
Bulgaria	7	4	1	2	12	7	9
Sweden	5	4	0	1	8	3	8
Austria	6	2	0	4	9	10	4
Finland	5	1	0	4	4	9	2
Israel	5	0	1	4	5	16	1

AFRICA

37 entries (48 members)

● *Group winners qualify for Second Round of 3 mini leagues of 3 teams each. Winners qualify for finals.*

First Round

GROUP A

09.10.92	Algeria v Burundi	3-1
25.10.92	Burundi v Ghana	1-0
20.12.92	Ghana v Algeria	2-0
17.01.93	Burundi v Algeria	0-0
31.01.93	Ghana v Burundi	1-0
26.02.93	Algeria v Ghana	2-1

★ *Uganda withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ALGERIA	4	2	1	1	5	4	5
Ghana	4	2	0	2	4	3	4
Burundi	4	1	1	2	2	4	3

GROUP B

18.10.92	Cameroon v Swaziland	5-0
25.10.92	Swaziland v Zaire	1-0
10.01.93	Zaire v Cameroon	1-2
17.01.93	Swaziland v Cameroon	0-0
29.02.93	Cameroon v Zaire	0-0

★ *Liberia withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CAMEROON	4	2	2	0	7	1	6
Swaziland	3	1	1	1	1	5	3
Zaire	3	0	1	2	1	3	1

Not played: *Zaire v Swaziland*

GROUP C

11.10.92	Egypt v Angola	1-0
11.10.92	Zimbabwe v Togo	1-0
25.10.92	Togo v Egypt	1-4
20.12.92	Zimbabwe v Egypt	2-1
10.01.93	Angola v Zimbabwe	1-1
17.01.93	Togo v Zimbabwe	1-2
18.01.93	Angola v Egypt	0-0
31.01.93	Egypt v Togo	3-0
31.01.93	Zimbabwe v Angola	2-1
28.02.93	Egypt v Zimbabwe	2-1

Result declared void after protest

Eric Cantona scores from the spot against Sweden during France's 2-1 win in Paris.

[illegible] Togo v Angola 0-1
Replay (in Lusaka)
[illegible] Egypt v Zimbabwe 0-0
★ Sierra Leone withdrew. Togo replaced them.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ZIMBABWE	6	4	2	0	8	4	10
Egypt	6	3	2	1	9	3	8
Angola	6	1	2	3	2	4	4
Togo	6	0	0	5	2	11	0

Not played: Angola v Togo

GROUP D

[illegible] Nigeria v South Africa 4-0
[illegible] South Africa v Congo 1-0
[illegible] Congo v Nigeria 0-1
[illegible] South Africa v Nigeria 0-0
[illegible] Congo v South Africa 0-1
[illegible] Nigeria v Congo 2-0
★ Sao Tome e Principe withdrew, Libya withdrew.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NIGERIA	4	3	1	0	7	0	7
South Africa	4	2	1	1	2	4	5
Congo	4	0	0	4	0	5	0

GROUP E

10.10.92 Ivory Coast v Botswana 6-0
25.10.92 Niger v Ivory Coast 0-0
20.12.92 Botswana v Niger 0-1
17.01.93 Botswana v Ivory Coast 0-0
31.01.93 Ivory Coast v Niger 1-0
28.02.93 Niger v Botswana 2-1
★ Sudan withdrew.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
IVORY COAST	4	2	2	0	7	0	6
Niger	4	2	1	1	3	2	5
Botswana	4	0	1	3	1	9	1

GROUP F

11.10.92 Morocco v Ethiopia 5-0
11.10.92 Tunisia v Benin 5-1
25.10.92 Ethiopia v Tunisia 0-0
25.10.92 Benin v Morocco 0-1
20.12.92 Tunisia v Morocco 1-1
20.12.92 Ethiopia v Benin 3-1
17.01.93 Ethiopia v Morocco 0-1
17.01.93 Benin v Tunisia 0-5
31.01.93 Tunisia v Ethiopia 3-0
31.01.93 Morocco v Benin 5-0
28.02.93 Benin v Ethiopia 1-0
28.02.93 Morocco v Tunisia 0-0
★ Malawi withdrew, Benin replaced them.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MOROCCO	6	4	2	0	13	1	10
Tunisia	6	3	3	0	14	2	9
Ethiopia	6	1	1	4	3	11	3
Benin	6	1	0	5	3	19	2

GROUP G

11.10.92 Gabon v Mozambique 3-1
25.10.92 Mozambique v Senegal 0-1
19.12.92 Gabon v Senegal 3-2
17.02.93 Mozambique v Gabon 1-1
30.01.93 Senegal v Mozambique 6-1
27.02.93 Senegal v Gabon 1-0
★ Mauritania withdrew.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SENEGAL	4	3	0	1	10	4	6
Gabon	4	2	1	1	7	5	5
Mozambique	4	0	1	3	3	11	1

GROUP H

11.01.92 Madagascar v Namibia 3-0
25.10.92 Namibia v Zambia 0-4
20.12.92 Madagascar v Zambia 2-0
17.01.93 Namibia v Madagascar 0-1
30.01.93 Zambia v Namibia 4-0
27.02.93 Zambia v Madagascar 3-1
★ Burkina Faso withdrew and were replaced by Namibia. Tanzania also withdrew.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ZAMBIA	4	3	0	1	11	3	6
Madagascar	4	3	0	1	7	3	6
Namibia	4	0	0	4	0	12	0

GROUP I

[illegible] Guinea v Kenya 4-0
[illegible] Kenya v Guinea 2-0
★ Gambia & Mali withdrew.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GUINEA	2	1	0	1	4	2	2
Kenya	2	1	0	1	2	4	2

Second Round
GROUP A

16.04.93 Algeria v Ivory Coast 1-1
02.05.93 Ivory Coast v Nigeria 2-1
03.07.93 Nigeria v Algeria
18.07.93 Ivory Coast v Algeria
25.09.93 Nigeria v Ivory Coast
08.10.93 Algeria v Nigeria

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ivory Coast	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
Algeria	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Nigeria	1	0	0	1	1	2	0

GROUP B

18.04.93 Morocco v Senegal 1-0
02.05.93 Senegal v Zambia ..... postponed
04.07.93 Zambia v Morocco
17.07.93 Senegal v Morocco
26.09.93 Zambia v Senegal
10.10.93 Morocco v Zambia

GROUP C

18.04.93 Cameroon v Guinea 3-1

Canada's Yallop (2) and Bunbury stop Mexico's Alberto Garcia.

02.05.93 Guinea v Zimbabwe 3-0
04.07.93 Zimbabwe v Cameroon
18.07.93 Guinea v Cameroon
26.09.93 Zimbabwe v Guinea
10.10.93 Cameroon v Zimbabwe

CONCACAF

23 entries (27 members, Cuba withdrew)

● *Top two in Group A play (home & away) against top two in Group B. Winning nation qualifies for finals. Runners-up play Oceania winners for right to play South America Group A runners-up for a place in the finals (United States qualify as hosts).*

Pre-preliminary Round
CARIBBEAN REGION — NORTH

21.03.92 Dominican Rep. v P. Rico 1-2
22.03.92 St Lucia v St Vincent 1-0
29.03.92 P. Rico v Dominican Rep. 1-1
29.03.92 St Vincent v St Lucia 3-1

Preliminary Round
CARIBBEAN REGION — NORTH

26.04.92 Bermuda v Haiti 1-0
25.05.92 Jamaica v Puerto Rico 2-1
25.05.92 Haiti v Bermuda 2-1
30.05.92 Puerto Rico v Jamaica 0-1
St Vincent v Cuba★
★ Cuba withdrew.
St Vincent, Bermuda & Jamaica qualify for 1st rnd

CARIBBEAN REGION — SOUTH

19.04.92 Dutch Antilles v Antigua 1-1
26.04.92 Antigua v Dutch Antilles 3-0
26.04.92 Guyana v Surinam 1-2
24.05.92 Barbados v Trin. & Tobago 1-2
25.05.92 Surinam v Guyana 1-1
31.05.92 Trin. & Tobago v Barbados 3-0
Trinidad & Tobago, Antigua and Surinam qualify for 1st rnd

First Round
CENTRAL REGION

19.07.92 Guatemala v Honduras 0-0
19.07.92 Nicaragua v El Salvador 0-5
23.07.92 El Salvador v Nicaragua 5-1
26.07.92 Honduras v Guatemala 2-0
16.08.92 Panama v Costa Rica 1-0
23.08.92 Costa Rica v Panama 5-1
El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica qualify for 2nd rnd

CARIBBEAN REGION

14.06.92 Antigua v Bermuda 0-3
05.07.92 Trinidad & Tobago v Jamaica 1-2
04.07.92 Bermuda v Antigua 2-1
02.08.92 Surinam v St Vincent 0-0
16.08.92 Jamaica v Trinidad & Tobago 1-1
30.08.92 St Vincent v Surinam 2-1
Bermuda, Jamaica and St Vincent qualify for 2nd rnd

Second Round
GROUP A

08.11.92 Costa Rica v Honduras 2-3
08.11.92 St Vincent v Mexico 0-4
15.11.92 Mexico v Honduras 2-0
15.11.92 St Vincent v Costa Rica 0-1
22.11.92 Mexico v Costa Rica 4-0
22.11.92 St Vincent v Honduras 0-4
29.11.92 Honduras v St Vincent 4-0
29.11.92 Costa Rica v Mexico 2-0
06.12.92 Honduras v Costa Rica 2-1
06.12.92 Mexico v St Vincent 11-0
13.12.92 Costa Rica v St Vincent 5-0
13.12.92 Honduras v Mexico 1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MEXICO	6	4	1	1	22	3	9
HONDURAS	6	4	1	1	14	6	9
Costa Rica	6	3	0	3	11	9	6
St. Vincent	6	0	0	6	0	29	0

Mexico & Honduras qualify for final rnd

GROUP B

18.10.92 Jamaica v Canada 1-1
18.10.92 Bermuda v El Salvador 1-0
25.10.92 El Salvador v Canada 1-1
25.10.92 Bermuda v Jamaica 1-1
01.11.92 Canada v Jamaica 1-1
01.11.92 El Salvador v Bermuda 1-1
08.11.92 Canada v El Salvador 2-3
08.11.92 Jamaica v Bermuda 3-3
15.11.92 Canada v Bermuda 4-2
22.11.92 Jamaica v El Salvador 0-2
06.12.92 Bermuda v Canada 0-0
06.12.92 El Salvador v Jamaica 2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
EL SALVADOR	6	4	1	1	12	6	9
CANADA	6	2	3	1	9	7	7
Jamaica	6	1	2	3	6	9	4
Bermuda	6	1	2	3	7	12	4

El Salvador & Canada qualify for final rnd

Final Round

04.04.93 El Salvador v Mexico 2-1
04.04.93 Honduras v Canada 2-2
11.04.93 Mexico v Honduras 3-0
11.04.93 Canada v El Salvador 2-0
18.04.93 Canada v Honduras 3-1
18.04.93 Mexico v El Salvador 3-1
25.04.93 Mexico v Canada 4-0
25.04.93 Honduras v El Salvador 2-0
02.05.93 Honduras v Mexico 1-4
02.05.93 El Salvador v Canada 1-2
09.05.93 Canada v Mexico 1-2
09.05.93 El Salvador v Honduras 2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MEXICO	6	5	0	1	17	5	10
Canada	6	3	1	2	10	10	7
El Salvador	6	2	0	4	6	11	4
Honduras	6	1	1	4	7	13	3

SOUTH AMERICA

9 entries (10 members, Chile suspended)

● *Winners of Group A & winners & runners-up in Group B qualify for finals. Group A runners-up play winners of CONCACAF/Oceania play-off for a place in the finals.*

GROUP A
Argentina, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru.

01.08.93 Colombia v Paraguay
01.08.93 Peru v Argentina
08.08.93 Paraguay v Argentina
08.08.93 Peru v Colombia
15.08.93 Colombia v Argentina
15.08.93 Paraguay v Peru
22.08.93 Argentina v Peru
22.08.93 Paraguay v Colombia
29.08.93 Argentina v Paraguay
29.08.93 Colombia v Peru
05.09.93 Argentina v Colombia
05.09.93 Peru v Paraguay

GROUP B
Brazil, Uruguay, Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela.

08.07.93 Ecuador v Brazil
08.07.93 Venezuela v Bolivia
25.07.93 Bolivia v Brazil
25.07.93 Venezuela v Uruguay
01.08.93 Uruguay v Ecuador
01.08.93 Venezuela v Brazil
08.08.93 Bolivia v Uruguay
08.08.93 Ecuador v Venezuela
15.08.93 Bolivia v Ecuador
15.08.93 Uruguay v Brazil
22.08.93 Bolivia v Venezuela
22.08.93 Brazil v Ecuador
29.08.93 Brazil v Bolivia
29.08.93 Uruguay v Venezuela
05.09.93 Brazil v Venezuela
05.09.93 Uruguay v Ecuador
12.09.93 Uruguay v Bolivia
12.09.93 Venezuela v Ecuador
19.09.93 Brazil v Uruguay
19.09.93 Ecuador v Bolivia

OCEANIA

7 entries (8 members, Western Samoa withdrew)

● *The two Group winners play (home & away) with the winners qualifying to meet the CONCACAF runners-up. The winners of that match will meet the South America Group A runners-up for a place in the finals.*

GROUP 1

11.07.92 Solomon Islands v Tahiti 1-1
04.09.92 Solomon Islands v Australia 1-2
11.09.92 Tahiti v Australia 0-3
20.09.92 Australia v Tahiti 2-0
25.09.92 Australia v Solomon Islands 6-1
09.10.92 Tahiti v Solomon Islands 4-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AUSTRALIA	4	4	0	0	13	2	8
Tahiti	4	1	1	2	5	8	3
Solomon Islands	4	0	1	3	5	13	1

Australia qualify for final play-off

GROUP 2

07.06.92 New Zealand v Fiji 3-0
27.06.92 Vanuatu v New Zealand 1-4
01.07.92 New Zealand v Vanuatu 8-0
12.09.92 Fiji v Vanuatu 3-0
19.09.92 Fiji v New Zealand 0-0
26.09.92 Vanuatu v Fiji 0-3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NEW ZEALAND	4	3	1	0	15	1	7
Fiji	4	2	1	1	6	3	5
Vanuatu	4	0	0	4	1	18	0

New Zealand qualify for final play-off

PLAY-OFF
1st leg
29.05.93 New Zealand v Australia
2nd leg
06.06.93 Australia v New Zealand

ASIA

29 entries (36 members)

● *The six Group winners qualify for Second Round, to be played as (home & away) mini-league. Winners & runners-up qualify for finals.*

First Round
GROUP A

22.05.93 Jordan v Yemen ▲ 1-1
22.05.93 Pakistan v China ▲ 0-5
24.05.93 Jordan v Iraq ▲
24.05.93 Yemen v Pakistan ▲
26.05.93 Jordan v China ▲
26.05.93 Yemen v Iraq ▲
28.05.93 Pakistan v Iraq ▲
28.05.93 Yemen v China ▲
30.05.93 Jordan v Pakistan ▲
30.05.93 Iraq v China ▲
12.06.93 Yemen v Jordan ▼
12.06.93 China v Pakistan ▼
14.06.93 Iraq v Jordan ▼
14.06.93 Pakistan v Yemen ▼
16.06.93 China v Jordan ▼
16.06.93 Iraq v Yemen ▼
18.06.93 Iraq v Pakistan ▼
18.06.93 China v Yemen ▼
20.06.93 Pakistan v Jordan ▼
20.06.93 China v Iraq ▼
▲ in Amman, Jordan
▼ in Beijing, China

GROUP B

28.06.93 Iran v Oman ▲
28.06.93 Taiwan v Syria ▲
30.06.93 Oman v Syria ▲
30.06.93 Iran v Taiwan ▲
02.07.93 Oman v Taiwan ▲
02.07.93 Iran v Syria ▲
07.07.93 Oman v Iran ▼
07.07.93 Syria v Taiwan ▼
09.07.93 Syria v Oman ▼
09.07.93 Taiwan v Iran ▼
11.07.93 Taiwan v Oman ▼
11.07.93 Syria v Iran ▼
▲ in Tehran, Iran
▼ in Damascus, Syria
★ *Myanmar (formerly Burma) withdrew.*

GROUP C

09.04.93 Qatar v Indonesia ▲ 3-1
09.04.93 North Korea v Vietnam ▲ 3-0
11.04.93 North Korea v Singapore ▲ 2-1
11.04.93 Qatar v Vietnam ▲ 4-0
13.04.93 North Korea v Indonesia ▲ 4-0
13.04.93 Vietnam v Singapore ▲ 2-3
16.04.93 Qatar v Singapore ▲ 4-1
16.04.93 Vietnam v Indonesia ▲ 1-0
18.04.93 Indonesia v Singapore ▲ 0-2
18.04.93 Qatar v North Korea ▲ 1-2
24.04.93 Indonesia v Qatar ▼ 1-4
24.04.93 Vietnam v North Korea ▼ 0-1
26.04.93 Singapore v North Korea ▼ 1-3
26.04.93 Vietnam v Qatar ▼ 0-4
28.04.93 Indonesia v North Korea ▼ 1-2
28.04.93 Singapore v Vietnam ▼ 1-0
30.04.93 Singapore v Qatar ▼ 1-0
30.04.93 Indonesia v Vietnam ▼ 2-1
02.05.93 Singapore v Indonesia ▼ 2-1
02.05.93 North Korea v Qatar ▼ 2-2
▲ in Doha, Qatar
▼ in Singapore

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NORTH KOREA	8	7	1	0	19	6	15
Qatar	8	5	1	2	22	8	11
Singapore	8	5	0	3	12	12	10
Indonesia	8	1	0	7	6	19	2
Vietnam	8	1	0	7	4	18	2

GROUP D

07.05.93 Lebanon v India ▲ 2-2
07.05.93 Hong Kong v Bahrain ▲ 2-1
09.05.93 Bahrain v South Korea ▲ 0-0
09.05.93 Lebanon v Hong Kong ▲ 2-2
11.05.93 India v Hong Kong ▲ 1-2
11.05.93 Lebanon v South Korea ▲ 0-1
13.05.93 Lebanon v Bahrain ▲ 0-0
13.05.93 India v South Korea ▲ 0-3
15.05.93 Hong Kong v South Korea ▲ 0-3
15.05.93 Bahrain v India ▲ 2-1
05.06.93 South Korea v Hong Kong ▼
05.06.93 Bahrain v Lebanon ▼
07.06.93 India v Bahrain ▼
07.06.93 South Korea v Lebanon ▼
09.06.93 Hong Kong v Lebanon ▼
09.06.93 South Korea v India ▼
11.06.93 India v Lebanon ▼
11.06.93 Bahrain v Hong Kong ▼
13.06.93 South Korea v Bahrain ▼
13.06.93 Hong Kong v India ▼
▲ in Beirut, Lebanon
▼ in Seoul, South Korea

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Korea	4	3	1	0	7	0	7
Hong Kong	4	2	1	1	6	7	5
Bahrain	4	1	2	1	3	3	4
Lebanon	4	0	3	1	4	5	3
India	4	0	1	3	4	9	1

GROUP E

01.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Macao ▲ 6-0
01.05.93 Malaysia v Kuwait ▲ 1-1
03.05.93 Kuwait v Macao ▲ 10-1
03.05.93 Malaysia v Saudi Arabia ▲ 1-1
05.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Kuwait ▲ 0-0
05.05.93 Malaysia v Macao ▲ 9-0
14.05.93 Malaysia v Kuwait ▼ 0-2
14.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Macao ▼ 8-0
16.05.93 Macao v Kuwait ▼ 0-8
16.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Malaysia ▼ 3-0
18.05.93 Malaysia v Macao ▼ 5-0
18.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Kuwait ▼ 2-0
▲ in Kuala Lumpur
▼ in Riyadh

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SAUDI ARABIA	6	4	2	0	20	1	10
Kuwait	6	3	2	1	21	4	8
Malaysia	6	2	2	3	16	7	6
Macao	6	0	0	6	1	46	0

GROUP F

08.04.93 Japan v Thailand ▲ 1-0
08.04.93 Sri Lanka v UAE ▲ 0-4
11.04.93 Japan v Bangladesh ▲ 8-0
11.04.93 Thailand v Sri Lanka ▲ 1-0
13.04.93 Sri Lanka v Bangladesh ▲ 0-1
13.04.93 UAE v Thailand ▲ 1-0
15.04.93 Japan v Sri Lanka ▲ 5-0
15.04.93 UAE v Bangladesh ▲ 1-0
18.04.93 Japan v UAE ▲ 2-0
18.04.93 Thailand v Bangladesh ▲ 4-1
28.04.93 Thailand v Japan ▼ 0-1
28.04.93 UAE v Sri Lanka ▼ 3-0
30.04.93 Bangladesh v Japan ▼ 1-4
30.04.93 Thailand v UAE ▼ 1-2
03.05.93 Bangladesh v UAE ▼ 0-7
03.05.93 Sri Lanka v Thailand ▼ 0-3
05.05.93 Bangladesh v Thailand ▼ 1-4
05.05.93 Sri Lanka v Japan ▼ 0-6
07.05.93 Bangladesh v Sri Lanka ▼ 3-0
07.05.93 UAE v Japan ▼ 1-1
▲ in Tokyo, Japan
▼ in Dubai, UAE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
JAPAN	8	7	1	0	28	2	15
UAE	8	6	1	1	19	4	13
Thailand	8	4	0	4	13	7	8
Bangladesh	8	2	0	6	7	28	4
Sri Lanka	8	0	0	8	0	26	0

EUROPE

AUSTRIA

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 2

WEEKEND

ADMIRA WACKER 2
ST POLTEN 0

SALZBURG 4
SPORTCLUB 0

VORWARTS STEYR 1
AUSTRIA WIEN 0

RAPID WIEN 2
WACKER INNSBRUCK 3

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 9

WEEEKEND

AUSTRIA WIEN 4
SPORTCLUB 1

ST POLTEN 5
RAPID WIEN 0

WACKER INNSBRUCK 0
VORWARTS STEYR 0

ADMIRA WACKER 2
SALZBURG 2

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 16

MIDWEEK

CUP — 5TH ROUND

AUSTRIA WIEN 1
SALZBURG 0

WACKER INNSBRUCK 4
SV RIED 0

FIRST VIENNA 2
RAPID WIEN 4

FURSTENFELD 1
FAVORITNER AC 2

ADMIRA WACKER 4
STURM GRAZ 1

FLAVIA SDISA 1
ST POLTEN 1

STAHL LINZ 3
SV STOCKERAU 2

AUSTRIA TABAK LINZ 0
WSG WATTENS 4

WEEKEND

AUSTRIA WIEN 4
SPORTCLUB 1

ST POLTEN 5
RAPID WIEN 0

WACKER INNSBRUCK 0
VORWARTS STEYR 0

ADMIRA WACKER 2
SALZBURG 2

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 23

WEEKEND

SPORTCLUB 2
WACKER INNSBRUCK 1

RAPID WIEN 4
ADMIRA WACKER 0

VORWARTS 1
ST. POLTEN 2

SALZBURG 1
AUSTRIA WIEN 3

LEADING SCORERS

1 ..... **Danek** (Wacker) 21
2 ..... **Marschall** (Admira) 17
3 ..... **Pfeifenberger** (Salzburg) ... 15

BELGIUM

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 2

MIDWEEK

GENK 0
ANDERLECHT 1 (Boffin 3). **Att:** 8,000.

WEEKEND

BOOM 1 (Muller 38)
ANDERLECHT 5 (Bosman 3, 54, Degryse 37, Albert 53, Walem 82). **Att:** 6,000.

EKEREN 5 (N'Sumbu 23, 87, Claesen 41, 61, 67)
LIERSE 0. **Att:** 3,000.

CLUB BRUGGE 4 (Staelens 40, Dziubinski 47, 54, Booy 68)
GENK 0. **Att:** 7,000.

CHARLEROI 3 (Malbasa 50, Zetterberg 53, 80)
WAREGEM 1 (Kruzen 57). **Att:** 10,000.

LOMMEL 2 (Haagdoren 30, Van Geneugden 77)
CERCLE BRUGES 0. **Att:** 8,000.

RWDM 0
BEVEREN 2 (Van Ham 16, Boonem 80). **Att:** 6,000.

LOKEREN 2 (Meszaros 27, 83)
LIEGE 2 (Arnold 50, Ernes 87). **Att:** 2,500.

MECHELEN 0
ANTWERP 0. **Att:** 12,000.

STANDARD 8 (Wilmots 6, 36, 39, 44, 46, 59, Vos 12, Bisconti 79)
GENT 4 (Bauwen 17, Schepens 56, Porte 64, Viscaal 65). **Att:** 12,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 9

MIDWEEK

EKEREN 2 (Vangolpe 6, 12)
MECHELEN 2 (Hofmans 78, Naudds 86). **Att:** 5,000.

ANTWERP 3 (Sewereyns 7, Kiekens 36, Lehnhoff 63)
GENT 1 (Van Gronsveld 21). **Att:** 8,000.

WEEKEND

LIEGE 1 (Arnold 74)
MECHELEN 4 (Eykelkamp 3, Ingesson 62, Vangospel 73, 85). **Att:** 5,000.

BEVEREN 2 (Van Overvelt 42, Van Britsan 75)
LOKEREN 2 (Meszaros 20, De Bril 78). **Att:** 8,000.

EKEREN 0
ANTWERP 2 (Jakovljevic 62, Van Veirdeghem 81). **Att:** 5,000.

LIERSE 0
STANDARD 2 (Wilmots 47, N'Dinga 53). **Att:** 3,000.

GENT 2 (Viscaal 12, Van den Bergh 26)
BOOM 2 (De Meersman 40, Tika 82). **Att:** 2,500.

ANDERLECHT 1 (Nilis 81)
CLUB BRUGGE 0. **Att:** 18,000.

GENK 0
CHARLEROI 3 (Carto 39, Malbasa 72, Brogno 77). **Att:** 2,000.

WAREGEM 5 (Urban 6, Krugen 25, 73, Descamps 52, Abeels 86)
LOMMEL 0. **Att:** 5,000.

CERCLE BRUGES 4 (Karacic 5, Weber 9, 23, 72)
RWDM 0. **Att:** 1,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 16

WEEKEND

BOOM 0
LIERSE 0. **Att:** 1,500.

CLUB BRUGGE 2 (Arnokachi 33, 83)
GENT 0. **Att:** 6,000.

CHARLEROI 2 (Malbasa 35, 80)
ANDERLECHT 1 (Bosman 16). **Att:** 25,000.

LOMMEL 4 (Haagdoren 1, 85, Van Geneugden 16, 35)
GENK 2 (Kutena 79, Beyens 87). **Att:** 7,000.

RWDM 0
WAREGEM 2 (Urban 54, Kruzen 60). **Att:** 4,000.

LOKEREN 1 (Taibi 78)
CERCLE BRUGES 1 (Weber 57). **Att:** 2,500.

MECHELEN 3 (Ingesson 12, Versavel 44, Van Goppel 78)
BEVEREN 0. **Att:** 9,000.

ANTWERP 4 (Segers 15, Lehnoff 67, Van Rethy 70, Van Veirdeghem 88)
LIEGE 1 (Ikpeba 42). **Att:** 10,000.

STANDARD 4 (Wilmots 43, 62, Rednic 48, Asselman 79)
EKEREN 2 (Hofmans 57, N'Sumbu 66). **Att:** 9,000.

LEADING SCORERS

1 ..... **Weber** (Cercle Bruges) 31
2 ..... **Malbasa** (Charleroi) 23
Kruzen (Waregem) 23
4 ..... **Wilmots** (Standard) 22
5 ..... **Nilis** (Anderlecht) 19
Severeyns (Antwerp) 19
Vidmar (Waregem) 19
8 ..... **Ikpeba** (Liege) 17

HOLLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 2

WEEKEND

VITESSE 2 (Van Den Brom 14, Cocu 24)
MVV 1 (Meyer 59). **Att:** 6,990.

GA EAGLES 1 (Bosvelt 71)
SPARTA 0. **Att:** 6,000.

SVV/DORDRECHT 0
PSV EINDHOVEN 1 (Vanenburg 19). **Att:** 10,600. *Match abandoned because of bomb alert, 2nd half to be replayed.*

UTRECHT 2 (Roest 57, Graanoogst 90)
VOLENDAM 0. **Att:** 4,000.

FORTUNA SITTARD 1 (Sneekes 90)
RODA JC 1 (Broeders 86). **Att:** 4,000.

TWENTE 0
RKC 0. **Att:** 4,800.

FEYENOORD 5 (Scholten 4, Blinker 8, 45, Kiprich 33, 53 pen)
DEN BOSCH 0. **Att:** 22,880.

GRONINGEN 0
CAMBUUR 1 (De Gier 29). **Att:** 13,450.

WILLEM II 1 (Stewart 59)
AJAX 0. **Att:** 12,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 9

MIDWEEK

AJAX 5 (De Boer 15, Vink 28, Jonk 30, 70, Pettersson 89)
FEYENOORD 2 (Blinker 73, Obiku 78). **Att:** 43,000.

MVV 1 (Lanckohr 6)
GRONINGEN 0. **Att:** 5,412.

WEEKEND

RODA JC 1 (Van den Luer 43 pen)
UTRECHT 3 (Van den Net 28, Biji 31, Smit 73). **Att:** 2,000.

PSV 2 (Popescu 36, Boere o.g. 58)
GA EAGLES 0. **Att:** 25,750.

CAMBUUR 4 (Konterman 8, Van Oosterom 12 pen, 59, 65)
TWENTE 2 (Mols 52, 86). **Att:** 7,500.

DEN BOSCH 0
WILLEM II 3 (Smeets 5, Latupeirisse 79, Sylla 87). **Att:** 2,615.

VOLENDAM 4 (Wasiman 41, 48 pen, 81, Berghuis 71)
DORDRECHT 1 (Sion 35). **Att:** 2,000.

RKC 1 (Ehlen 84)
FORTUNA 3 (Nyssater 50, 55, Dekkers 60). **Att:** 4,780.

SPARTA 0
VITESSE 3 (Gillhaus 8, Latuheru 53, 72). **Att:** 2,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 16

MIDWEEK

RODA JC 2 (Broerders 13, 72)
PSV 0. **Att:** 17,000.

WEEKEND

VITESSE 1 (Gillhaus 70)
FEYENOORD 1 (Van Loen 81). **Att:** 17,857.

SPARTA 2 (Van Den Berg 57, Bogarde 62)
PSV 5 (Romario 13, 43, Kalusha 19, Koeman 32, Van Aerle 89). **Att:** 9,000.

GA EAGLES 0
VOLENDAM 0. **Att:** 4,500.

SVV/DORDRECHT 0
RKC 1 (Jalink 26). **Att:** 3,500.

FORTUNA SITTARD 1 (Sneekes 27)
CAMBUUR 1 (Keizser 78). **Att:** 2,500.

TWENTE 2 (Mulder 42, Paus 75)
AJAX 0. **Att:** 12,741.

GRONINGEN 1 (De Krujif 90)
DEN BOSCH 1 (Laisina 50). **Att:** 9,502.

WILLEM II 4 (Sylla 5, 70, Stewart 80, Van Geel 88 pen)
MVV 1 (Benneker 83). **Att:** 5,400.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 23

MIDWEEK

SVV/DORDRECHT 2 (Wouden 54, Langenizen 57)
PSV 2 (Vanenburg 19, Van der Gaag 82).

AJAX 4 (Blind 45, Pettersson 80, 88, Bergkamp 84)
GRONINGEN 0. **Att:** 21,000.

WEEKEND

FEYENOORD 3 (Taument 28, De Wolf 44, Obiku 74)
WILLEM II 0. **Att:** 30,540.

CAMBUUR 1 (De Gier 12)
UTRECHT 2 (Oosterhuis 26, Hondeveld 75). **Att:** 6,000.

VITESSE 1 (Sturing 35)
PSV 0. **Att:** 17,720.

VOLENDAM 3 (Smeets 64, Steur 67, Wasiman 70)
SPARTA 3 (De Nooyer 17, Van Der Derg 84 pen, Valke 90). **Att:** 6,530.

RODA JC 4 (Huiberts 21, Jansen 69, 74, Romero 84)
GA EAGLES 0. **Att:** 2,000.

RKC 0
SVV/DORDRECHT 3 (Wouden 18, 23, Van Den Merwe 35). **Att:** 4,350.

DEN BOSCH 2 (Netten 75, Wolffs 76)
TWENTE 0. **Att:** 2,560.

LEADING SCORERS

1 ..... **Bergkamp** (Ajax) 23
2 ..... **Romario** (PSV) 22
3 ..... **Meijer** (MVV) 20
4 ..... **Pettersson** (Ajax) 18
5 ..... **Kiprich** (Feyenoord) 16

PORTUGAL

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 2

WEEKEND

GUIMARAES 2 (Ziad 52, Paulo Bento 74 pen)
SPORTING 3 (Leal 54, Cadete 66, P. Torres 71). **Att:** 10,000.

BEIRA-MAR 1 (Cabral 79)
FARENSE 1 (Hassan 36). **Att:** 8,850.

CHAVES 0
BENFICA 1 (Schwarz 88). **Att:** 10,000.

MARITIMO 2 (P. Alves 60, J. Andrade 63)
ESPINHO 1 (Ado 67). **Att:** 9,300.

PORTO 1 (Timofte 42)
BOAVISTA 1 (Artur 79). **Att:** 7,000.

BELENENSES 7 (Mauro Soares 15, J. Manuel Pinto 40, 88, P. Sergio 45, 52, M. Airez 57, Goncalves 77 pen)
FAMALICAO 0. **Att:** 7,000.

ESTORIL 0
BRAGA 0. **Att:** 10,000.

PACOS FERREIRA 0
SALGUEIROS 1 (Abilio 38). **Att:** 5,000.

GIL VICENTE 1 (Peter Hinds 89)
TIRSENSE 2 (Amancio 8 pen, 35 pen). **Att:** 6,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 9

MIDWEEK

CUP — SEMI-FINAL

GUIMARAES 1 (Ziad 2)
BENFICA 2 (Isaias 78, Rui Aguas 90). **Att:** 15,000.

WEEKEND

PORTO 4 (Semedo 28, Nando 38 o.g, Timofte 30, Dominguos 80 pen)
GIL VICENTE 1 (Drulavic 55). **Att:** 10,000.

BOAVISTA 2 (Owubokiri 31, 38)
CHAVES 0. **Att:** 11,600.

BENFICA 3 (William 40 pen, Isaias 43, Yuran 49)
GUIMARAES 1 (Ziad 90). **Att:** 15,000.

SPORTING 3 (Juskowiak 52, 84, Cherbakov 62)
BEIRA-MAR 1 (Dinis 31). **Att:** 8,000.

FARENSE 2 (Djukic 55, Armando 73)
MARITIMO 2 (Edmilsson 27, Jorge Andcade 84). **Att:** 12,000.

SALGUEIROS 1 (Sa Pinto 24)
TIRSENSE 0. **Att:** 9,400.

ESPINHO 3 (Chico Faria 49, 58, Eliseu 78)
ESTORIL 1 (Duffort 62). **Att:** 7,300.

FAMALICAO 1 (Barnjak 55)
PACOS FERREIRA 0. **Att:** 10,000.

BRAGA 3 (Fernando Pires 10 pen, Jorge Ferreira 28, Forbs 58)
BELENENSES 0. **Att:** 11,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 16

WEEKEND

GUIMARAES 3 (Alexandrov 1, Paulo Pereira 5, Pedro 88)
BOAVISTA 2 (Marlon Brandao 52, Owubokiri 68). **Att:** 15,000.

BEIRA-MAR 1 (Dino 85)
BENFICA 0. **Att:** 30,000.

CHAVES 1 (Manuel Correia 5)
PORTO 2 (Domingos 2, Jose Carros 81). **Att:** 10,000.

MARITIMO 4 (Joao Luis 54, 64, Heitor 77 pen, Valido 90)
SPORTING 2 (Cherbakov 20, Cadete 75). **Att:** 16,000.

ESTORIL 1 (Voinov 79)
FARENSE 0. **Att:** 11,800.

BELENENSES 1 (Goncalves 8)
ESPINHO 2 (Aziz 31, Victor Sirva 53). **Att:** 10,000.

PACOS FERREIRA 3 (Jussie 27, 89, Sobrinho 85)
BRAGA 0. **Att:** 12,000.

TIRSENSE 3 (Rui Manuel 33, Viera 42 o.g., Vinicius 44)
FAMALICAO 0. **Att:** 13,500.

GIL VICENTE 2 (Hinds 5, Tuck 45 pen)
SALGUEIROS 0. **Att:** 8,300.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 23

MIDWEEK

FARENSE 1 (Hugo 87)
PORTO 0. **Att:** 15,000.

WEEKEND

CHAVES 1 (Tarkkio 19)
GIL VICENTE 2 (Drulovic 47, Peter Hinds 58). **Att:** 5,000.

PORTO 2 (Kostadinov 30, 58)
GUIMARAES 0. **Att:** 35,000.

BOAVISTA 4 (Marlon Brandao 45, 52, Owubokiri 55, Dinis 77 o.g.)
BEIRA-MAR 0. **Att:** 11,000.

BENFICA 5 (Joao Pinto 4, William 10, Rui Aguas 37, 65, 80)
MARITIMO 1 (Ademir 22). **Att:** 35,000.

SPORTING 1 (Yordanov 60)
ESTORIL 1 (Voinov 22). **Att:** 25,000.

FARENSE 1 (Ademar 55)
BELENENSES 1 (Rui Barbosa 38). **Att:** 12,000.

ESPINHO 1 (Aziz 36)
PACOS FERREIRA 1 (Jussie 77). **Att:** 10,000.

FAMALICAO 3 (Barnjak 7, Mitharsky 48, Medane 55)
SALGUEIROS 1 (Rui Neves 59). **Att:** 15,000.

BRAGA 3 (Eugenio 39, Toni 66, Secretario 68)
TIRSENSE 0. **Att:** 15,000.

LEADING SCORERS

1 ..... **Cadete** (Sporting) 17
2 ..... **Andrade** (Maritimo) 12
Artur (Boavista) 12
Owubokirl (Boavista) 12
5 ..... **Balakov** (Sporting) 11
6 ..... **Juskowiak** (Sporting) 10
Edmilson (Maritimo) 10
Timofte (FC Porto) 10
9 ..... **Karoglan** (Chaves) 9

SWITZERLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 2

CUP — QUARTER-FINALS
SERVETTE 2 (Anderson 18, 54)
SION 2 (Assis 74, Biaggi 87). **Att:** 9,000.

BASEL 2 (Sitek 76, 86 pen)
NEUCHATEL XAMAX 3 (Rothenbuhler 13, B. Sutter 18, 25). **Att:**13,000.

LUGANO 4 (Subiat 26, Jensen 54, Sylvestre 74, Penzavalli 84)
ZURICH 2 (Studer 7, Grassi 57). **Att:** 5,000.

KRIENS 2 (Berchtold 34, Vukic 49)
GRASSHOPPER 3 (Kozle 2, Willems 32, Nakhid 77. **Att:** 2,726.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 9

MIDWEEK

CUP — SEMI-FINALS

SERVETTE 0
GRASSHOPPER 2 (Bickel 38, Magnin 85). **Att:** 9,300.

NEUCHATEL XAMAX 2 (Kaeslin 70 o.g., Adriano 90)
LUGANO 3 (Colombo 30, Zuffi 87, Subiat 114). **Att:** 4,000. *After extra time.*

WEEKEND

LUGANO 0 (Anderson 75)
SERVETTE 1 (Anderson 75). **Att:** 5,000.

AARAU 1 (Heldmann 90)
ZURICH 0. **Att:** 3,500.

SION 2 (Tulio 63, Hottiger 83)
YOUNG BOYS 0. **Att:** 7,000.

LAUSANNE 1 (Finck 67)
NEUCHATEL XAMAX 1 (Bonvin 87). **Att:** 64,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 16

WEEKEND

SION 0
SERVETTE 0. **Att:** 6,500.

NEUCHATEL 0
AARAU 0. **Att:** 7,300.

YOUNG BOYS 2 (Kunz 70, Jacobsen 81)
LUGANO 3 (Subiat 43, Esposito 48, Zuffi 58). **Att:** 5,300.

LAUSANNE 2 (Studer 67, Fink 74)
ZURICH 0. **Att:** 3,900.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 23

WEEKEND

SERVETTE 2 (Gertchen 5 o.g, Agostino 54)
YOUNG BOYS 0. **Att:** 4,200.

AARAU 3 (Aleksandrov 47, 62, Wassmer 48)
LAUSANNE 0. **Att:** 6,500.

LUGANO 5 (Zuffi 18 pen, Subiat 51, Ambrioli 63, Colombo 67, Hertig 76)
SION 0. **Att:** 5,000.

ZURICH 2 (Skoro 46, 51 pen)
NEUCHATEL 0. **Att:** 2,000.

LEADING SCORERS

1 ..... **Anderson** (Servette) 20
2 ..... **Jakobsen** (Young Boys) 16
3 ..... **Aleksandrov** (Aaurau) 15
4 ..... **Fink** (Lausanne) 14
Tulio (Sion) 14

INTERNATIONAL

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

Apr 28 = Singapore — WC Asian gp C
N KOREA 2 (Pan Gwang Cho 5, Ryu Song Gun 60)
INDONESIA 1 (Rachmat Darmawan 31)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 6,000.

Apr 28 = Singapore — WC Asian gp C
SINGAPORE 1 (Rafi Ali 52)
VIETNAM 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000.

Apr 28 = Dubai — WC Asian gp F
JAPAN 1 (Hoirike 50)
THAILAND 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Omar Al-Mehanna (SA)

Apr 28 = Dubai — WC Asian gp F
UAE 3 (Adnan Talyani 43, Abdulrazak Ibrahim 53, Rashid Ismail 89)
SRI LANKA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000.

Apr 28 = Sofia — WC Euro gp 6
BULGARIA 2 (Stoichkov 14, Yankov 43)
FINLAND 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Lim Kee Chong (Mau)
Bulgaria: Mikhailov — Kiriakov, Rakov, A Markov (Bezinski 89), Yankov, Lechkov, E Kostadinov (Iskrenov 56), Stoichkov, Penev, Sirakov, Balakov.
Finland: Jakonen — Kinnunen, Kanerva, Heikkinen, Holmgren, Suominen, Litmanen, Lindberg, Hjelm, Paatelainen, Petaja (Rajamaki 62).

Apr 28 = Ostrava — WC Euro gp 4
CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1 (Latal 41)
WALES 1 (Hughes 31)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 16,000. **Ref:** Quiniou (Fra)
Czechoslovakia: Kouba — Glonek (Bejbl 66), Kadlec, Novotny, Vrabec, Latal, Nemec (Dubovsky 79), Kubik, Nemecek, P Kuka, L Luhovy.
Wales: Southall — Phillips, Bodin (Bowen 52), Melville, Symons, Blackmore, Horne, Saunders, Rush, Hughes, Giggs.

Apr 28 = Wembley — WC Euro gp 2
ENGLAND 2 (Barnes 2, Platt 23)
HOLLAND 2 (Bergkamp 34, Van Vossen 85 pen)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 73,163. **Ref:** Mikkelsen (Den)
England: Woods — Dixon, Walker, Adams, Keown — Ince, Gascoigne (Merson 46), Palmer, Barnes — Platt, Ferdinand.
Holland: De Goey — Blind, De Boer — Rijkaard, Winter, Wouters, Rob Witschge — Gullit (Van Vossen 69), Bergkamp, Bosman (De Wolf 46), Overmars.

Apr 28 = Paris — WC Euro gp 6
FRANCE 2 (Cantona 42 pen, 82)
SWEDEN 1 (Dahlin 14)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 43,000. **Ref:** Pairetto (Ita)
France: Lama — Angloma, Petit, Boli, Blanc, Le Guen, Deschamps, Sauzee, Ginola (Vahirua 46), Martins (Lizarazu 89), Cantona.
Sweden: Ravelli — R Nilsson, P Andersson, Bjorklund, Ljung, Rehn, Thern (Kaamark 27), Brolin, Schwarz, Ingesson, Dahlin (Pettersson 65).

Apr 28 = Oslo — WC Euro gp 2
NORWAY 3 (Rekdal 14, Fjortoft 17, J I Jakobsen 55)
TURKEY 1 (Feyyaz 57)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 21,530. **Ref:** Weber (Ger)
Norway: Rossbach — Halle, T Pedersen, Bratseth, Bjornbye, Flo, Mykland (R Nilsen 82), Rekdal, Leonhardsen (Ingebrigtsen 30), J I Jakobsen, Fjortoft.
Turkey: Hayrettin — Recep, Ogun, Sedat, Semat, Bulent, Feyyaz, Unal, Mehmet (Hamza 81), Hakan (Hami 66), Orhan.

Apr 28 = Lodz — WC Euro gp 2
POLAND 1 (Furtok 68)
SAN MARINO 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Mottram (Sco)
Poland: Klak — Czachowski, Szewczyk, Kozminski, Waldoch, Brzeczek, L Pisz, Juskowiak (Staniek 66), Furtok, Kosecki, Ziober.
San Marino: Benedettini — Canti, Gennari, L Zanotti (F Francini 79), Gobbi, Valentini, Manzaroli, Della Valle, M Mazza, Bonini (P Mazza 70), Bacciocchi.

Apr 28 = Lisbon — WC Euro gp 1
PORTUGAL 5 (Rui Barros 5, 70, Cadete 45, 72, Futre 67)
SCOTLAND 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 28,000. **Ref:** Puhl (Hun)
Portugal: Vitor Baia — Abel Xavier, Jorge Costa, Rui Costa (Veloso 53), Fernando Couto, Oceano, Rui Barros, Paulo Sousa, Semedo, Futre, Cadete (Domingos 81).
Scotland: Goram — Gough, McNally, McPherson, McKimmie, Levein (Nevin), McStay, McCall, McCoist, Collins (Durrant 75), Gallacher.

Apr 28 = Dublin/Lansdowne Road — WC Euro gp 3
REP OF IRELAND 1 (Quinn 75)
DENMARK 1 (Vilfort 27)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 33,000. **Ref:** Harrel (Fra)
Rep of Ireland: Bonner — Irwin, McGoldrick, McGrath, Kernaghan, Keane, Townsend, Houghton, Quinn, Aldridge (Cascarino 62), Staunton.
Denmark: Schmeichel — Steen Nielsen, Rieper, L Olsen, Kjeldbjerg, Friis-Hansen, Jensen, Vilfort, Pingel (Kristensen 60), Ekstrup, B Laudrup.

Apr 28 = Moscow — WC Euro gp 5
RUSSIA 3 (Kanchelskis 55, Kolivanov 60, Yuran 86)
HUNGARY 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Goethals (Bel)
Russia: Kharin — Gorlukovich, A Ivanov, Onopko, Kanchelskis, Shalimov, Dobrovolski, Korneyev (Kulkov 57), Kolivanov, Yuran, Kiriakov (Mostovoi 72).
Hungary: Petry — Telek, Tibor Nagy, Lorincz, Pisont, Marton, Detari, Tibor Balogh (Vincze 64), Duro (Banfi 64), K Kovacs, Csabi.

Apr 28 = Seville — WC Euro gp 3
SPAIN 3 (Salinas 21, 26, Hierro 41)
N IRELAND 1 (Wilson 11)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Sundell (Swe)
Spain: Zubizarreta — Ferrer, Fernando, Toni, Alkorta, Hierro, Guerrero, Adolfo, Beguiristain (Bakero 76), Salinas, Claudio (Kiki 59).
N Ireland: Wright — Fleming, Worthington, Donaghy, Taggart, Macdonald, Black (Dennison 73), K Wilson, M O'Neill (Dowie 73), Gray, Hughes.

FRIDAY, APRIL 30

Apr 30 = Singapore — WC Asian gp C
SINGAPORE 1 (Fandi Ahmad 83)
QATAR 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** A M Yapa (SL)

Apr 30 = Singapore — WC Asian gp C
INDONESIA 2 (Wijarnarko 50, Sudirman 73)
VIETNAM 1 (Nguyen Hong Son 35)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Leamash Ibrahim (UAE)

Apr 30 = Dubai — WC Asian gp F
JAPAN 4 (Fukuda 3, Miura 30, Yoshida 37, Takagi 61)
BANGLADESH 1 (Rumi Karim 14)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 2,500.

Apr 30 = Dubai — WC Asian gp F
UAE 2 (Abdulrazak Ibrahim 10pen, Adnan Talyani 63)
THAILAND 1 (Songserm Maperm 89)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 16,000.

SATURDAY, MAY 1

May 1 = Bern/Wankdorf — WC Euro gp 1
SWITZERLAND 1 (Hottiger 55)
ITALY 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 31,000.
Switzerland: Pascolo — Hottiger, Geiger, Herr, Quentin, Bregy, Ohrel, Sforzam A Sutter, Knup (Grassi 76), Chapuisat.
Italy: Pagliuca — Mannini, Baresi, Vierchowod, Maldini, Fuser, Zoratto (Lentini 64), * D Baggio, Signori, Mancini (Di Mauro 46), R Baggio.
** D Baggio sent off, 43min.*

May 1 = Kuala Lumpur — WC Asian gp E
SAUDI ARABIA 6 (Sami Al-Jaber 12, Saeed Owairan 21, 24, Abdullah Al-Bosari 67, Fahd Mehalea 68, Khalid Al-Muwallid 79 pen)
MACAO 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Kim Kwang-paek (SK)

May 1 = Kuala Lumpur — WC Asian gp E
MALAYSIA 1 (Azman Adnan 60)
KUWAIT 1 (Ayman Al-Husaini 9)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Tachi Kiirchiro (Jap)

SUNDAY, MAY 2

May 2 = Tegucigalpa — WC CONCACAF 3rd rnd
HONDURAS 1 (Flores 66)
MEXICO 4 (Garcia Aspe 2, Luis Flores 44, Luis Garcia 49, R Smith og 89)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Marcio De Freitas (Bra)
Honduras: W Cruz — **Fernandez, A Cruz, Yearwood, Anariba — *Funez, Rochez, Richardson Smith — Benneth (J Flores 35), Suazo (Martinez 62), D Flores.
** Funez sent off, 71min; ** Fernandez sent off, 89min.*
Mexico: Campos — Suarez, Ramirez Perales, Ambriz, Ramirez — Espana, *Garcia Aspe, Patino (Gutierrez 69), L Flores — Luis Garcxia, Sanchez.
** Garcia Aspe sent off, 71min.*

May 2 = San Salvador — WC CONCACAF 3rd rnd
EL SALVADOR 1 (Magico Gonzalez 58)
CANADA 2 (Catliff 27, Peschisolido 60)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Arlington Succes (Ant).
El Salvador: C Rivera — Abrego, Trigueros, Cartamo, Estrada, Castro Borja, Lazo, Cienfuegos, Magico Gonzalez, Renderos (Melendez), Diaz Arce (Ulloa).
Canada: Forrest — Yallop, Sweeney, Samuel, Watson, Miller (Peschisolido; Mitchell), Norman, Hopper, Mobilio, Catliff, Bunbury.

May 2 = Abidjan — WC African gp A
IVORY COAST 2 (Abdoulaye Traore 70 pen, Ouattara 75)
NIGERIA 1 (Yekini 5)
HT: 0-1. At: 40,000. **Ref:** Chang.
Ivory Coast: Konate — Lignon, Comara (Fallet Vilasco 40), Gba, Sie — Dao, Maguy, Kone, Ben Salah — Ab Traore, Tlehi (Ouattara 52).
Nigeria: Agbonavbare — Iroha, Keshi, Eguavon (Oliha 82), Agboola — Adepoj, Nwosu, Amunike — Okocha (Semitoje 60), Yekini, Siasia.

May 2 = Conakry — WC African gp C
GUINEA 3 (Aboubacar Camara 5, Oumar Drame 20, Fode Camara 77)
ZIMBABWE 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 18,500. **Ref:** Matar (Mor)
Guinea: Diallo — Barny, Bangoura, M Soumah, Babara — Drame, Toure (Diane 46), Sow, M Sylla — Titi Camada, F Camara.
Zimbabwe: Grobbelaar — Phiri, Kanjera (Ndlo 46), Jonhay, McKop — Lundawi, Sawu, Gumbo, A Ndlovu — P Ndlovu, Ghan.

May 2 = Singapore — WC Asian gp C
SINGAPORE 2 (Fandi 66, Sundramoothy 86)
INDONESIA 1 (Savnunu 62)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Prasert Pirom (Thai)

May 2 = Singapore — WC Asian gp C
N KOREA 2 (Cho In-choi 37, Kim Gyong-il 52)
QATAR 2 (Khalil Ibrahim Malki 2, 85)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Abharan Alvari (Iran)

MONDAY, MAY 3

May 3 = Kuala Lumpur — WC Asian gp E
MALAYSIA 1 (Mubin Mokhtar 34)
SAUDI ARABIA 1 (Khalil Al-Muwallid 87 pen)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Kiirchiro (Jap)

May 3 = Kuala Lumpur — WC Asian gp E
MACAO 1 (Daniel Pinto 75)
KUWAIT 10 (Ali Al-Hadiyak 23, 25, 55, 88, Hamed Al-Saleh 61, 65, Jesem Al-Juwaidi 71, 81, Antonio Gomes og 72, Basel Abdul Rahim 76 pen)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Rafiq Mohamed Rafiqil Islam (Ban)

May 3 = Dubai — WC Asian gp F
UAE 7 (Adnan Talyani 4, 56, Abzulrazak Ibrahim 26, 60, Khamees Saad 28, Nasser Khamees 32, Mohammad Ali 74)
BANGLADESH 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 15,000.

May 3 = Dubai — WC Asian gp F
THAILAND 3 (Piyapong Pue-on 26, 31, 70 pen)
SRI LANKA 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Medjiba Rachid (Alg)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

May 5 = Kuala Lumpur — WC Asian gp E
KUWAIT 0
SAUDI ARABIA 0
Att: 12,000. **Ref:** Ibrahim Hakeem (UAE)

May 5 — Kuala Lumpur — WC Asian gp E
MALAYSIA 9 (Azman Adnan 4, 14, 74, Azizol Abu Ganiffah 32, 76, Mubin Mokhtar 47, 53, AElangovan 43, Zainal Abidin Hassan 87)
MACAO 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Zulkifli (Indo)

May 5 — Dubai — WC Asian gp F
JAPAN 6 (Ruy Ramos 32, Ihara 42, 56, Takagi 61, Miura 80, Nakayama 82)
SRI LANKA 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Omar Al-Mehanna (SA)

May 5 — Dubai — WC Asian gp F
THAILAND 4 (Piyapong Pue-on 22, 54, Kiatisuk Senamuang 27, Pongtron Tiubthong 56)
BANGLADESH 1 (Sayed Rumman bin Wali 76)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 750. **Ref:** Jamal Al-Sharif (Syr).

FRIDAY, MAY 7

May 7 = Beirut — WC Asian gp D
HONG KONG 2 (Kam Wa Cheung 21, Wai Lun Au 57)
BAHRAIN 1 (Marzooq 44)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 10,000.

May 7 = Beirut — WC Asian gp D
LEBANON 2 (Melikian 37, Taha 55)
INDIA 2 (Kumar 68, 82)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Nizar Watti (Syr)

May 7 = Al-Ain — WC Asian gp F
UAE 1 (Ibrahim 83)
JAPAN 1 (Tanaburi 84)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000.

May 7 = Al-Ain — WC Asian gp F
BANGLADESH 3 (Mamoun 7, 78, Kaisar Hamid 72)
SRI LANKA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 2,000.

SATURDAY, MAY 8

May 8 = friendly
UNITED STATES 1 (Lalas 14)
COLOMBIA 2 (Valencia 37, Garcia 68)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 17,652. **Ref:** Rebolledo (Mex)
US: Meola — Armstrong (Michallik 88), Doyle, Lapper, Agoos, Clavijo, Lalas, Henderson, Murray (Jones 46), Kinnear (Moore 71), Vermes (Harbor 46).
Colombia: Cordoba — Mendoza, Herrar, Perea, Osorio, Gaviria, Adolfo Valencia (Pacheco 75), Alexis Garcia, C Valderrama, Trellez (Aristizabal 69), Gabriel Gomez.

SUNDAY, MAY 9

May 9 = Beirut — WC Asian gp D
S KOREA 0
BAHRAIN 0
Att: 4,000.

May 9 = Beirut — WC Asian gp D
LEBANON 2 (Rafi Joulfagi 44, Fadi Allouch 80 pen)
HONG KONG 2 (Tam Siu Wai 13, Loh Wai Chi 19)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Hameed Al-Hindyani (Kuw)

May 9 = Toronto — WC CONCACAF 3rd rd
CANADA 1 (Bunbury 17)
MEXICO 2 (Hugo Sanchez 36, Francisco Cruz 84)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 20,000.
Canada: Forrest — Yallop, Sweeney, Samuel, Watson — Hooper, Norman (Mobilio 64), Mitchell — Catliff, Bunbury, Aunger (Peschisolido 46).
Mexico: Campos — Suarez, J Ramirez Perales, Ambriz, Herrera — R Ramirez, Espana, Patino, Flores — Sanchez, Salvador (Cruz 69; Nava 85).

May 9 = San Salvador — WC CONCACAF 3rd rd
EL SALVADOR 2 (Diaz Arce 1, Ulloa 32)
HONDURAS 1 (Anariba 77 pen)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 15,000.

TUESDAY, MAY 11

May 11 = Beirut — WC Asian gp D
HONG KONG 2 (Loh Wai-chi 15, Lee Kin-wo 59)
INDIA 1 (Bhupinder Thakur 54)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 7,000.

May 11 = Beirut — WC Asian gp D
LEBANON 0
SOUTH KOREA 1 (Seok-Ju Ha 17)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 15,000.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12

May 12 = Sofia — WC Euro gp 6
BULGARIA 2 (Stoichkov 35 pen, Sirakov 60)
ISRAEL 2 (R Harazi 52, Rosenthal 53)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Cekar (Tur)
Bulgaria: Mikhailov — Kiriakov, Ratkov, Markov, Ivanov, Lechkov (Borimirov 65), Balakov, Sirakov, Iskrenov (Yankov 37), Penev, Stoichkov.
Israel: Ginzburg — Halfon, Hillel, Hazan, Shelah, Klinger, Banin, Schwartz, Rosenthal, R Harazi (Atar 88), Ohana (A Harazi 89).

May 12 = Tallinn — WC Euro gp 1
ESTONIA 0
MALTA 1 (Laferla 16)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 14,000. **Ref:** Merk (Ger)
Estonia: Poom — R Kallaste (Bragin 75), Hepner, Prins, Kaljend, T Kallaste, Borisov, Kristal, Reim, Ratnikov (Olomets 20), Pustov.
Malta: Cluett — S Vella, Buhagiar, Saliba, Brincat, Buttigieg, Gregory (Delia 77), R Vella, Carabott (Sultana 46), Laferla, Camilleri.

May 12 = Minsk — friendly
BYELORUSSIA 0
MOLDAVIA 1 (Testemetsanou 23 pen)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,000.

THURSDAY, MAY 13

May 13 = Pori — WC Euro gp 6
FINLAND 3 (Paatelainen 17, Rajamaki 20, Hjelm 50)
AUSTRIA 1 (Zisser 89)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 13,682. **Ref:** Ferry (NI)
Finland: Jakonen — Heikkinen, Kanerva, Holmgren (Lindberg 60), Kinnunen, Petaja — Rajamaki, Hjelm, Suominen — Litmanen, Patelainen (Grunholm 76).
Austria: Wohlfahrt — Streiter, Zsak (Cerny 60), Zisser, Baur, Kuhbauer, Herzog, Artner, Lainer, A Ogris, Polster (Stoger 58).

May 13 = Beirut — WC Asian gp D
LEBANON 0
BAHRAIN 0
Att: 15,000.

May 13 = Beirut — WC Asian gp D
SOUTH KOREA 3 (Hong-Myong Bo 20 pen, Choi Moon-sik 71, Seok-Ju Ha 89)
INDIA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000.

FRIDAY, MAY 14

May 14 — Riyadh — WC Asian gp E
MALAYSIA 0
KUWAIT 2 (Wabrane 47, Maroui 63)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000.

May 14 = Riyadh — WC Asian gp E
SAUDI ARABIA 8 (Saeed Owairan 37, 57, 79, Hamza Idris 8, 25, 83, Khalid Al-Musaed 21 pen, Mansour Mouina 39)
MACAO 0
HT: 5-0. **Att:** 30,000.

SATURDAY, MAY 15

May 15 — Riga — WC Euro gp 3
LATVIA 0
ALBANIA 0
Att: 1,810. **Ref:** Howells (Wal)
Latvia: Lalzans — Erglish, Sjevlyakov, Ivanov, Gnedoya, Popkov, Troitski, Ostafiev (Semionovs 46), Zelberlins (Yarando 62), Linarts, Goratcilus.
Albania: Nallbani — Ocelli, Bano, Shala, Vata, Skulkju, Kiushta, Zalla (Kapedani 88), Peqini, Milori, Fortuzi (Dallji 77).

May 15 = Beirut — WC Asian gp D
SOUTH KOREA 3 (Seok Ju Ha 21, Jung-Won Seo 52, Moon-Sik Choi 73)
HONG KONG 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 2,000.

May 15 = Beirut — WC Asian gp D
BAHRAIN 2 (Khamis Eid Thani 4, Ahmed Abdulameer Ali 31)
INDIA 1 (Sathyan 89 pen)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 2,000.

SUNDAY, MAY 16

May 16 = Riyadh — WC Asian gp E
KUWAIT 8 (Ali Maroui 11, Abdallah Wabrane 44, Jassem Houidi 52, 60, Hamad Salah 55, Wael Al-Bichi 82, Abid Chemmari 85, Faez Flij 89)
MACAO 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 25,000.

May 16 = Riyadh — WC Asian gp E
SAUDI ARABIA 3 (Majed Abdullah 10, 65, Ahmed Jamil 58)
MALAYSIA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 45,000.

TUESDAY, MAY 18

May 18 = Riyadh — WC Asian gp E
MALAYSIA 5
MACAO 0
Att: 20,000.

May 18 = Riyadh — WC Asian gp E
SAUDI ARABIA 2
KUWAIT 0
Att: 20,000.

May 18 = Vilnius — friendly
LITHUANIA 1 (Zdancius)
UKRAINE 2 (Leonenko, Mikhailichenko)
Att: 5,000.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

May 19 = Tallinn — WC Euro gp 1
ESTONIA 0
SCOTLAND 3 (Gallacher 43, Collins 59, Booth 73)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,100. **Ref:** Hollung (Nor)
Estonia: Poom — R Kallaste, Lemsalu, Prins, Kaljend, T Kallaste, Borissove, Kristal (Hepner 46), Reim, Veensalu (Pustov 76), Bragin.

CONTINUED OVER

Scotland: Gunn — Wright (McLaren 80), Boyd, McStay, Hendry, Irvine, Gallacher, Bowman, J Robertson (Booth 61), McClair, Collins.

May 19 = Serravalle — WC Euro gp 2
SAN MARINO 0
POLAND 3 (Lesniak 52, 80, K Warzycha 56)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,500. RefL Kothere (Alb)
San Marino: Benedettini — Canti, Gennari, L Zanotti, Gobbi, Valentini, Manzaroli, F Francini (B Muccioli 60), M Mazza, Bonini, Bacciocchi (P Mazza 72).
Poland: Matysek — Czachowski, Brzeczek, Szewczyk, Rudy, Lesniak, Szierczewski, K Warzycha, Furtok (Staniek 82), Kosecki, Ziober.

May 19 = Stockholm — WC Euro gp 6
SWEDEN 1 (Eriksson 50)
AUSTRIA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 27,800. **Ref:** Piraux (Bel)
Sweden: Ravelli — Nilsson, Eriksson, Bjorklund, Ljung — Rehn, Schwarz, Brolin, Ingesson — Ekstrom (Zetterberg 80), Dahlin (Eklund 87).
Austria: Wohlfahrt — Streiter — Pecl, Lainer — Stoger, Baur, Herzog (Janeschitz 62), Artner, Feiersinger — A Ogris, Pfeifenberger.

THURSDAY, MAY 20

May 20 = Luxembourg — WC Euro gp 5
LUXEMBOURG 1 (Birgisson og 70)
ICELAND 1 (Godjohnsen 40)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Monteiro Corrado (Por)
Luxembourg: Van Rijswijck — Ferron (Carboni 64), Petry, Birsens, Wolf, Holtz, Saibene, Hellers, Groff (Scuto 50), Langers, Malget.
Iceland: B Kristinsson — Birgisson, Bergsson, Jonsson, Orlygsson, R Kristinsson, A Gretarsson, Ingolfsson (Martinsson 82), Gudjohnsen, A Gunnlaugsson (Thordarsson 56), Sverrisson.

SATURDAY, MAY 22

May 22 = Irbid, Jordan — WC Asian gp A
JORDAN 1 (Raid Suliman 64)
YEMEN 1 (Whagdan Shadli 88)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Abdul Aziz Al-Mullah (UAE)

May 22 = Irbid, Jordan — WC Asian gp A
CHINA 5 (Gao Hongbo 37, Cai Sheng 53, 59, 83, Hao Haidong 71)
PAKISTAN 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Ammar Ammar (Leb)

May 22 = Brussels — WC Euro gp 4
BELGIUM 3 (Wilmots 32, 75, Scifo 50 pen)
FAROE ISLANDS 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,641. **Ref:** Shorte (RI)
Belgium: Preud'homme — Smidts (Oliveira 76), Emmers, Grun, Staelens, Boffin, Van der Elst, Degryse, Wilmots, Scifo, Nilis.
Faroes: Knudsen — J Jakobsen, E Olsen, K Morkore (Reynatugvu 89), Justinussen, A Morkore, Dam, Abraham Hansen, T Nielsen, Arge (J E Rasmussen 87), Reynheim.

SUNDAY, MAY 23

May 23 = Moscow — WC Euro gp 5
RUSSIA 1 (Dobrovolski 75 pen)
GREECE 1 (Mitropoulos 45)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Mikkelsen (Den)
Russia: Kharin — Gorlukovich, Onopko, A Ivanov, Kanchelskis, Shalimov, Dobrovolski, Kulkov (Tatarchuk 62), Kolivanov, Yuran, Kiriakov.
Greece: Minou — Apostolakis, Kolitsidakis, Manolas, Kalitzakis, Tsaluhides, Marangos, Nioplias, Mahlas (Antoniou 82), Matripoulos (Karapialis 64), Tsiantakis.
● *Greece qualify for the World Cup finals for the first time.*

May 23 = Fullerton, Calif — friendly
UNITED STATES 0
BOLIVIA 0
Att: 9,578. **Ref:** Hall (US)
US: Friedel — Armstrong, Lapper, Clavijo, Caligiuri, Quinn (Lalas 60), Henderson, Murray (Jones 60), Moore, Kinnear (Chung 60), Vermes.
Bolivia: Trucco — Pena, Sandy, Rimba, Quinteros, Cristaldo, Baldiviezo (Soria 89), Melgar, Borja (Rios 46), Etcheberry, Moreno (Villarroel 73).

MONDAY, MAY 24

May 24 = Irbid, Jordan — WC Asian gp A
JORDAN 1 (Jireys Tadros 15)
IRAQ 1 (Munther Khalaf 73)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Perm Anbrasom (Thai)

May 24 = Irbid, Jordan — WC Asian gp A
YEMEN 5 (Omart Mubarak 20, 53, 77, Wujdan Al-Chadili 80, Mohammed Hassan 81)
PAKISTAN 1 (Mohammed Tariq 11)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 500. **Ref:** Hassan Askari (Iran)

May 24 = Palmerston North — friendly
NEW ZEALAND 5 (Wright 10, 51, De Jong 23, 28, Edge 80)
FIJI 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 2,000.

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP

GROUP 1

Oct 13 *(Perth)*: **Scotland 0, Portugal 0. Oct 15** *(Cremona)*: **Italy 1** (Vieri 53), **Switzerland 0. Nov 17** *(Grenchen)*: **Switzerland 4** (Camenzind 15, Margarini 28, Comisetti 30, Karlen 37), **Malta 0. Dec 16** *(Valletta)*: **Malta 0, Italy 1** (Galea og 70). **Jan 23: Malta 0, Portugal 2** (Miguel Bruno 60, 77). **Feb 16** *(Aberdeen/Pittodrie)*: **Scotland 3** (Booth 31, 89, Ferguson 48), **Malta 0. Feb 23** *(Braga)*: **Portugal 2** (Jorge Costa 55, Toni 61), **Italy 0. Mar 23** *(Reggio Calabria)*: **Italy 3** (Panucci 39, Favalli 40, Muzzi 75), **Malta 0. Mar 30** *(Yverdon)*: **Switzerland 1** (Camenzind 24), **Portugal 1** (Miguel Bruno 18). **Apr 16** *(Valletta)*: **Malta 1** (own goal), **Switzerland 4** (Setza 21, Comisetti 22, Mazzarelli 37, Orlando 73).

GROUP 2

Oct 6 *(Serravalle)*: **San Marino 0, Norway 3** (Strandli 26, Swift 56, Petter 76). **Oct 13** *(Utrecht)*: **Holland 1** (Van Gastel 77), **Poland 3** (Hajto 25, Wojciechowski 28, Dabrowski 49); *(Peterborough)*: **England 0, Norway 2** (Strandli 2, Haland 67). **Oct 27** *(Ankara)*: **Turkey 4** (Hasan 7, Bulent 16, 21, Mustafa 44), **San Marino 0. Nov 17** *(Brisbane Road, London)*: **England 0, Turkey 1** (Aydin 76). **Dec 15** *(Istanbul)*: **Turkey 1** (Mujdat 21), **Holland 1** (Davids 14). **Feb 16** *(Luton)*: **England 6** (Hall 22, Flitcroft 24, Anderton 36, Sheron 44, Redknapp 70, McManaman 87), **San Marino 0. Feb 23: Holland 0, Turkey 1. Mar 9** *(Serravalle)*: **San Marino 0, Turkey 2** (Hakan 43, Arif 58). **Mar 23** *(Volendam)*: **Holland 3** (Scheepers 12, 68, Mutsaers 89), **San Marino 0. Mar 30** *(Izmir)*: **Turkey 0, England 0. May 18** *(Serravalle)*: **San Marino 0, Poland 5.**

GROUP 3

Oct 13 *(Copenhagen/Osterbro)*: **Denmark 3** (Kristensen 14, Moller 35, 52), **Rep Ireland 2** (Dempsey 5, McGrath 84). **Nov 17** *(Tirana)*: **Albania 0, Germany 1** (Unger 21); *(Jerez)*: **Spain 2** (Kiko 24, Acosta 27), **Rep. Ireland 1** (McCarthy 65). **Dec 15** *(Osnabruck)*: **Germany 1** (Herrlich 37), **Spain 2** (Christiansen 48 o.g., Oscar 65). **Dec 23** *(Osnabruck)*: **Germany 4** (Munch 48, Herrlich 75, 89, Haber 88), **Albania 1** (Pali 56). **Mar 9** *(Dublin)*: **Rep Ireland 0, Germany 1** (Wuck 73). **Mar 23** *(Baunatal)*: **Germany 8** (Lottner 2, Herrlich 17, 69, Wuck 36, Green og 61, Munch 64, Haber 73, Worns 74), **Rep Ireland 0. Mar 30** *(Copenhagen)*: **Denmark 0, Spain 1** (Guerreiro 53). **Apr 14** *(Copenhagen)*: **Denmark 1** (Moller 59), **Germany 4** (Zege 30, 89, Herrlich 64, Wuck 68).

GROUP 4

Oct 13 *(Seraing)*: **Belgium 1** (Crasson 89), **Romania 0; *(Larnaca/Papadopulos)*: Cyprus 2** (Marios 64, Kiriakos 84), **Wales 4** (Bowen 34, Blake 39, 50, 75). **Nov 13** *(Bucharest)*: **Romania 1** (Moldovan 44), **Czechoslovakia 0. Nov 17** *(Kortrijk)*: **Belgium 3** (Crasson 25 pen, Goossens 27, Walem 82), **Wales 1** (Lee Jones 21). **Nov 28** *(Paralimni)*: **Cyprus 0, Romania 2** (Safta 31, Stinga 74). **Mar 23** *(Paralimni)*: **Cyprus 0, Czechoslovakia 2** (Bejbl 16, Gunda 54). **Mar 30** *(Cardiff)*: **Wales 0, Belgium 0. Apr 13** *(Bucharest)*: **Romania 1** (Matinca 10), **Cyprus 0.**

GROUP 5

Oct 7 *(Reykjavik)*: **Iceland 1** (T Gudjonsson 81pen), **Greece 3** (Mahlas 4, Kostic 73, 88). **Oct 13** *(Moscow)*: **Russia 5, Iceland 0. Oct 27** *(Moscow)*: **Russia 2** (Sherbakov, Bestchastnikh), **Luxembourg 1** (Cardoni). **Nov 10** *(Edhessa)*: **Greece 2, Hungary 1. Nov 11** *(Bucharest)*: **Romania 1** (Moldovan 44), **Czechoslovakia 0. Nov 17** *(Kortrijk)*: **Belgium 3** (Crasson 25 pen, Goossens 27, Walem 82), **Wales 1** (Lee Jones 21). **Feb 17** *(Athens)*: **Greece 6** (Gonlas 7, 52, Giorgatos 9, 68, Alexoudis 80, Poursanides 89), **Luxembourg 0. Mar 30** *(Szekesfehervar)*: **Hungary 1** (Horvath 57), **Greece 2** (Gonlas 44, Georgatos 66). **Apr 13** *(Luxembourg)*: **Luxembourg 0, Russia 6** (Esipov 38, 44, 83, Faizulin 47, Bestchastnikh 53, Talalayev 63). **May 19** *(Grevenmacher)*: **Luxembourg 1, Iceland 3. May 22** *(Moscow)*: **Russia 1, Greece 1.**

GROUP 6

Oct 6 *(Halmstad)*: **Sweden 6** (H Larsson 29, 40, 54, A Bild 65, 86, Jeglertz 89), **Bulgaria 0. Oct 14** *(Beauvais)*: **France 6** (Ouedec 8pen, Pedros 12, Nouma 33, Dugarry 41, 55, Vairelles 77), **Austria 1** (Thetis og 44). **Oct 27** *(Vienna)*: **Austria 1** (Pirk 15), **Israel 5** (Keisy 20, Revivo 25 pen, 27, Mizrahi 75, Torjman 76). **Nov 10** *(Herzliya)*: **Israel 1, Sweden 1. Dec 1: Israel 1, Bulgaria 2. Feb 16** *(Herzliya)*: **Israel 1** (A Mizrahi 74pen), **France 2** (Dugarry 12, 85). **Mar 26** *(Modling)*: **Austria 0, France 1** (Ouedec 62). **Apr 13** *(Modling)*: **Austria 2** (Mayrleb 53, 87), **Bulgaria 0. May 11: Bulgaria 1, Israel 0. May 18: Sweden 1, Austria 1.**

SOUTH AMERICA

LIBERTADORES CUP
Second round — 1st legs

MONDAY, APRIL 5

In Asuncion, Paraguay.
CERRO PORTEÑO (Par) 1 (Ferreira)
COBRELOA (Chile) 1 (Figueroa)
HT:1-1. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** A. Hay (Arg).
Cerro Porteno: Mondragon, Alcaraz, Cristaldo, Capurro, Struway, Gamarra, Dida, Sotelo (Perez), Arce (Chavez), A & V Ferreira.
Cobreloa: Canales, Cornejo, Barco, Miranda, Jaque, Puebla, Retamar, Gonzalez, Perez (Fuentes), Figueroa (Covarrubias), H. P. Gonzalez.
● Cerro Porteno did more of the attacking, but Cobreloa held them well even after Puebla was sent off 10 minutes from the end. Angry home fans threw stones and at least one Chilean player (Perez) was hit.

In Quito, Ecuador.
NACIONAL (Ecu) 3 (Cherrez 2, Mosquera)
SPORTING CRISTAL (Peru) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Jose J. Torres (Col).
Nacional: Reinoso, Mosquera, Ballesteros, Quinonez, Arrojo, Ruiz, Mendez (Hurtado), Castaneda, Garay, Chala (Bernaza), Cherrez.
Sporting Cristal: Miranda, Lobaton (Prado), Avila, Duffo, Vidales, Soto, Garay, Olivares, Rivera, Marquinho (Palacios), Maestri.
● National did not win as easily as the score suggests. They were on top until the first goal after seven minutes, but then Sporting had their chances.

In Cali, Colombia.
AMERICA (Col) 2 (Cabrera, Escobar)
BOLIVAR (Bol) 1 (Castillo)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Jorge Orellana (Ecu).
America: Comizzo, Cabrera, Jimenez, Cassiani, Perez, Alvarez, Lozano (Da Silva), Rincon, Escobar, De Avila, Maturana (Uzuriaga).
Bolivar: Trucco, Montano, Sandy, Ibanez, Ferrufino, Soria, Borja, Echeverry, Castillo, Valdivieso, Hirano.
● Bolivar defended strongly with Trucco outstanding and nine team-mates packing the box. America pressed for much needed goals all the way, fearing the altitude of La Paz.

In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
FLAMENGO (Bra) 8 (Morales o.g., Marcelinho, Gaucho, Nelio, Wilson Gotardo, Marquinhos, Djalma Dias, Nilson)
MINERVEN (Ven) 2 (Camacho 2)
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 4,500.
Flamengo: Gilmar, Charles, Junior Baiano, Wilson Gotardo, Pia, Uidemar, Marquinhos, Junior (Djalminha), Marcelinho, Gaucho (Nilson), Nelio.
Minerven: Carrillo, Pacheco, Tortolero, Ortiz (Guerra), Morales, Rodriguez (Mieres), Balcucho, Erramuspe, Grueso, Camacho, Matuszyck.
● Flamengo, playing at a training-match rhythm, were still too good, able to score at will from close range. Minerven's offside trap did not work.

In Montevideo, Uruguay.
NACIONAL (Uru) 1 (Lemos)
OLIMPIA (Par) 2 (Caballero, Caceres)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Renato Marsiglia (Bra).
Nacional: Sere, Mendez, Revelez, De Leon, Olivera (O'Neil), Lemos, Gutierrez, Miranda (Nunez), Garcia, Dely Valdes, Vidal Gonzalez.
Olimpia: Goicochea, Caceres, Castro, Otero, Suarez, Jara, V. Sanabria, Monzon, Gonzales (Martinez), Amarilla, Caballero (Peralta).
● Olimpia were two up within 22 minutes showing better tactics than Nacional — with Luis Monzon outstanding in midfield — although the latter pressed more, but lacked organisation in attack.

In Santiago, Chile.
UNIV. CATOLICA (Chile) 2 (Barrera, Caro)
NACIONAL (Col) 0
HT:1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Luis Seminario (Peru).
Univ. Catolica: Wirth, Romero, Lopez, Vasquez, Tupper, Lunari, Lepe, Reinoso (J. Gomez), Cardozo (Caro), Almada, Barrera.
Nacional: Franco, Herrera, Marulanda, Gaviria, Samnta (Osorio), G.Gomez, Zuniga, Garcia, Restrepo, Serna, Trellez (Carmona).
● Universidad attacked for most of the match without organisation against an injury-weakened sid. Serna was sent off after 54 minutes and UC only got their second goal in the last minute.

In Lima, Peru.
UNIVERSITARIO (Peru) 2 (Silva, Torrealva)
BARCELONA (Ecu) 1 (Gavica)
HT: 1-0.**Ref:** S. Imperatore (Chile).
Universitario: Zubzuck, Charun, Asteggiano, Reinoso, Carranza, Martinez (Besada), Bazalar, Torrealva, Nunes, Baroni, Gonzalez.
Barcelona: Zevallos, Montanero, Tenorio (Noriega), Alcibar, Gomez, Caraveli, Rosero, Munoz, Gavica, De Souza, Aviles.
● Universitario did all the attacking and Barcelona defended well.

In Rosario, Argentina.
NEWELL'S OLD BOYS (Arg) 2 (Cozzoni, Mendoza)
SAO PAULO (Bra) 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Juan Escobar (Par).
Newell's OB: Scoponi, Saldana, Llop, Pochettino, Berizzo, Berti, Castagno, Suarez, Martino, Zamora, Cozzini (Navarro), Mendoza (Odriozola).
Sao Paulo: Zetti, Vitor, Adilson, Ronaldo, Pintado, Andre, Valber, Palinha, Dinho, Cafu, Muller.
● Out-of-form Newell's — bottom of their league — returned to form, but owed their victory to two defensive slips.

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

Second round — 2nd legs

In Sao Paulo, Brazil.
SAO PAULO (Bra) 4 (Dinho, Rai 2, Cafu)
NEWELL'S OLD BOYS (Arg) 0
HT:2-0. **Ref:** Ernesto Filippi (Uru).
Sao Paulo won 4-2 on aggregate.
Sao Paulo: Zetti, Vitor, Lula (Andre), Ronaldo (Valber), Ronaldo Luiz, Dinho, Pintado, Rai, Palinha, Cafu, Muller.
Newell's OB: Scoponi, Saldana, Llop, Pochettino, Berizzo, Castagno Suarez, Berti (Garfagnoli), Martino, Zamora, Cozzoni (Odriozola), Mendoza.
● Sao Paulo took control from the start, well directed by Rai (who missed the first leg) and pressed even more after their 28th-minute opener, when only Scoponi stood in the way of an easier win.

In La Paz, Bolivia.
BOLIVAR (Bol) 1 (Hirano)
AMERICA (Col) 1 (Da Silva)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 47,000. **Ref:** S. Farina (Par).
America won 3-2 on aggregate.
Bolivar: Trucco, Montano (Ibanez), Ferrufino, Sandy, Rimba, Soria, Borja, Hernandez (Castillo), Baldivieso, Etcheverry, Hirano.
America: Comizzo, Cabrera, Jimenez, Cassiani, Perez, Lozano, Escobar, Villarreal, Da Silva, De Avila, Rincon.
● America overcame La Paz's altitude to draw eight minutes from the end and go through on aggregate. Bolivar had the better of the first half, but slowed down afterwards.

In Calama, Chile.
COBRELOA (Chile) 0
CERRO PORTENO (Par) 2 (Rossi, Dida)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Armando Perez-Hoyos (Col).
Cerro won 3-1 on aggregate.
Cobreloa: Canales, Barco, Jaque, Cornejo, H.Gonzalez (Covarrubias), Retamar, Miranda, Vera (Alvarez), Perez, Figueroa, P. Gonzalez.
Cerro Porteno: Mondragon, Riveros, Cristaldo, Capurro, Dida, Gamarra, Sotelo (Alcala), Struway, Arce, Ferreira (Chavez), Rossi.
● Cobreloa, having drawn away, were favourites to go through to the second round at home, but although they pressed all the way, they could not turn their superiority into goals. Cerro Porteno got the goals with 10 minutes to go and in the final minute, both from their Brazilian players, Rossi and Dida.

In Medellin, Colombia.
NACIONAL (Col) 2 (Aristizabal, Serna)
UNIV. CATOLICA (Chile) 1 (Paraguez)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Marcio Rezende (Bra).
Univ. Catolica won 3-2 on aggregate.
Nacional: Franco, Herrera, Marulanda, Foronda, Osorio, Gomez, Gaviria, Garcia, Fajardo (Serna), Aristizabal, Trellez.
Univ. Catolica: Wirth, Romero, Vasquez, Lopez, Gomez (Contreras), Leepe, Paraguez, Lunari, Tupper, Barrera (Cardozo), Almada.
● Universidad qualified for the quarter-finals in spite of losing and it was not as close as it looks. The Chileans had an overall two-goal lead until Nacional's winner in injury time.

In Lima, Peru.
SPORTING CRISTAL (Peru) 4 (Zegarra, Olivares, Maestri, Dos Santos pen.)
NACIONAL (Ecu) 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Alvaro Arboleda (Ven).
Sporting Cristal won 4-3 on aggregate.
Sporting Cristal: Miranda, Soto, Avila, Duffo, Olivares, Zegarra, Palacios (Vidales), Garay, Rivera, Marquinho, Maestri.
Nacional: Reynoso, Mosquera, Quinonez, Ballesteros, Arroyo, Castaneda, Vega, Valencia, Hurtado (Garay), Chala, Cherrez.
● Nacional thought they were safe with a 3-0 lead, but allowed Sporting to attack all the way and win, although the decider only came in the final minute from a penalty.

In Asuncion, Paraguay.
OLIMPIA (Par) 3 (Monzon, Caceres, Amarilla)
NACIONAL (Uru) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Javier Castrilli.
Olimpia won 5-1 on aggregate.
Olimpia: Goycochea, Caceres, Castro, Ayala, Suarez, Jara Heyn, V. Sanabria, Monzon, Gonzalez (Peralta), Amarilla, Caballero (Jara).
Nacional: Sere, Mendez, Canals, Revelez, Soca (Garcia), Lemos(Nunez), Gutierrez, Deo Leon, O'Neil, Vidal Gonzalez, J.C. Dely Valdez.
● Olimpia, leading 2-1 from the first leg, played more defensively in the first half and allowed Nacional more of the ball but they could not beat goalkeeper Goycochea. Olimpia were well on top in the second half to run out easy winners.

In Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela.
MINERVEN (Ven) 0
FLAMENGO (Bra) 1 (Gaucho)
HT:0-1. **Ref:** Alfredo Rojas (Ecu).
Flamengo won 9-2 on aggregate.
Minerven: Carrillo, Pacheco, Mieres (Guerra), Tortolero, Morales, Garcia, Grueso, Erramuspe, Balcucho (Caminiti), Matuszyck, Camacho.
Flamengo: Gilmar, Charles, Andrex, Junior, Wilson Gotardo, Marquinho, Vidernar, Marcelinho, Gaucho, Nelio, Nallalminha.
● Flamengo, with a six-goal first-leg margin and lining up several reserves, again took it easy against weaker rivals.

In Guayaquil, Ecuador.
BARCELONA (Ecu) 3
UNIVERSITARIO (Peru) 0
Barcelona won 4-2 on aggregate.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

Quarter-finals — 1st leg

In Cali, Colombia.
AMERICA (Col) 2 (Da Silva, Cabrera)
SPORTING CRISTAL (Peru) 2 (Olivares, Avila)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 35,000.
America: Comizzo, Cabrera, Jimenez, Cassiani, Perez, Alvarez, Lozano (Ferreira), Escobar, Rincon, Da Silva, De Avila (Uzuriaga).
Sporting Cristal: Miranda, Rojas, Avila, Duffo, Olivares, Soto, Zegara (Palacios), Garay, Marquinho, Maestri, Rivera (Andrade).
● America built up a two-goal lead within 20 minutes, but let it slip in the second half with poor marking during corners which produced both Sporting's goals. Rivera and Alvarez were sent off.

In Asuncion, Paraguay.
OLIMPIA (Par) 1 (Amarilla)
CERRO PORTENO (Par) 1 (Vida)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Juan C. Loustau (Arg).
Olimpia: Goycochea, Caceres, Castro,

Ayala, Suarez, Jara Heyn, Sanabria, V. Mondon, Gonzalez, Amarilla, Caballero (J. Jara).
Cerro Porteno: Mondragon, Capurro, Gamarra, Cristaldo, Vida, Struway, Riveros, Sotelo, Arce, Alex, Ferreyra (Alcaraz).
● After an intense first half, play slowed down in the second period when both teams seemed happy with a draw.

In Santiago, Chile.
UNIV. CATOLICA (Chile) 3 (Almada 2, Vasquez)
BARCELONA (Ecu) 1 (Munoz)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Jorge Nieves (Uru).
Univ. Catolica: Wirth, Romero, Vasquez, Lopez, Gomez, Lepe, Lunari (Paraguez), Tupper, Cardozo (Caro), Almada, Barrera.
Barcelona: Mendoza, Gomez, Tenorio, Montanero, Alcivar, Carabali, Rossero, Gavica, Insua (Noriega), Munoz (Uquillas), Gilson.
● Universidad were slightly on top in the first half, but did not take all their chances. Barcelona attacked in the second half and the Chilean team's two-goal lead flattered them a bit.

In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
FLAMENGO (Bra) 1 (Nelio)
SAO PAULO (Bra) 1 (Palhinha)
HT:0-1. **Att:** 70,000.
Flamengo: Gilmar, Charles (Fabinho), Rogerio, Wilson Gotardo, Josecler, Uidemar, Marquinhos, Junior, Nelio, Paulo Nunes, Gaucho (Nilson).
Sao Paulo: Zetti, Vitor, Gilmar, Valber, Ronaldo Luis, Pintado, Dinho, Rai, Cafu, Muller, Palhinha (Cate).
● Sao Paulo gained a valuable draw and dominated towards the end but Flamengo, a man short — Josecler had gone off injured when his team had made both substitutions — held out.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

Quarter-finals — 2nd legs

In Guayaquil, Ecuador.
BARCELONA (Ecu) 0
UNIV. CATOLICA (Chile) 1 (Romero)
HT: 0-1. **Att:**70,000. **Ref:** E. Filippi (Uru).
Universidad won 4-1 on aggregate.
Barcelona: Mendoza, Gomez, Montanero, Tenorio, Alcivar, Carabali, Gavica, Insua, Munoz, Aviles, Gilson.
Univ. Catolica: Wirth, Romero, Vasquez, Lopez, Contreras, Lunari, Tupper (Perez), Lepe, Paraguez, Barrera, Almada (Cardozo).
● In spite of starting the game at noon in intense heat to which the Chileans were not used to as much as their rivals, Universidad Catolica won again, scoring after 22 minutes and then defending their lead. Both teams played with 10 men for 65 minutes — Montanero (Barc) and Barrera (Univ) being sent off.

In Sao Paul, Brazil.
SAO PAULO (Bra) 2 (Muller, Cafu)
FLAMENGO (Bra) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 80,000. **Ref:** Renato Marsiglia (Bra).
Sao Paulo won 3-1 on aggregate.
Sao Paulo: Zetti, Vitor, Gilmar, Valber, Ronaldo Luis, Dinho, Pintado, Rai, Palhinha, Cafu, Muller.
Flamengo: Gilmar, Wilson Gotardo, Junior Baiano, Rogerio, Fabinho, Marquinhos, Videmar (Djalminha), Junior, Nelio, Marcelinho. (Paulo Nunes), Gaucho.
● Sao Paulo dominated this classic, confirming that they are the best team in the country. Both goals were the result of excellent moves as the winners gave an exhibition of good soccer.

In Asuncion, Paraguay.
CERRO PORTENO (Par) 0
OLIMPIA (Par) 0
Ref: Juan Bava (Arg).
Agg: 1-1. Cerro won 4-2 on pens.
Cerro Porteno: Mondragon, Gamarra, Cristaldo, Capurro, Dida, Struway, Alcaraz (Balu), Sotelo, Arce, Chaves (Villagra), Rossi.
Olimpia: Goycochea, Caceres, Ayala, Castro, Suarez, Jara Heyn, V. Sanabria, Gonzales, Amarilla, Caballero Campos.
● Although playing with 10 men for over half the game — Villagra was sent off after 34 minutes — Cerro Porteno were closer to victory. Olimpia, playing below form, also had a player sent off, Vidal Sanabria, but only two minutes from the end. Gamarra missed a penalty. They finally won in the shoot-out. Mondragon, Arce, Dida and Cristaldo netted for Cerro, but Balu's shot was saved by Goycochea. Castro and Gonzalez netted, but Monzon hit the crossbar and Suarez's shot was saved by Mondragon.

In Lima, Peru.
SPORTING CRISTAL (Peru) 2 (Julinho 2)
AMERICA (Col) 3 (Ferreira 2, Escobar)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Francisco Lamolina (Arg).
America won 5-4 on aggregate.
Sp. Cristal: Miranda, Rojas, Avila, Duffo, Olivares, Soto, Garay, Zegarra (Palacios), Marquinho, Julinho, Maestri.
America: Cornizzo, Cabrera, Jimenez, Cassiani, Moreno, Villarroel, Lozano, Rincon, Escobar, Ferreira (Gomez), De Avila.
● America, a good away team, were cruising 3-0 with 20 minutes to go when the Peruvians fought back to score two quick goals. The second brought protests from goalkeeper, Cornizzo, who hit a rival and was sent off.

NORTH/CENTRAL AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (CONCACAF)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

Caribbean zone —
2nd round, 1st legs
La Juventa des Abymes (Guad) 1 Franciscain (Mar) 0.

L'Etoile de Mome a l'eau (Guad) 0 L'Aiglon du Lamentin (Mar) 3.

Sithoc (DA) 2 Robin Hood (Sur) 1.

Trintoc (T&T) 2 ASL Sport Guyanais (FG) 0.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 21

2nd round, 2nd legs
Franciscain 2 La Juventa 0
Franciscain won 2-1 on aggregate.

L'Aiglon 0 L'Etoile 0
L'Aiglon won 3-0 on aggregate.

Robin Hood 3 Sithoc 0
Robin Hood won 4-2 on aggregate.

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

North/Central American zone —
1st round, 1st leg
Acroz (Bel) 1 Real Espana (Hon) 2

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

1st round, 2nd leg
Real Espana 3 Acroz 0
Real Espana won 5-1 on aggregate.

MAJOR CLUB INTERNATIONALS

April 15: Colo Colo (Chile) 0 Boca Juniors (Arg) 1 *(1st leg).*
April 21: Independiente (Arg) 1 Tenerife (Spa) 0.
April 23: Boca Juniors (Arg) 3 Colo Colo (Chile) 0 *(2nd leg — Boca won Trasandina Cup 4-0 on aggregate.)*
April 27: San Lorenzo (Arg) 3 Tenerife (Spa) 1

CONCACAF MASTERS TOURNAMENT
(in Guatemala)

April 28: Honduras 1 El Salvador 0.
April 30: Guatemala 4 El Salvador 0, Honduras 3 Panama 2.

BOLIVARIONO GAMES
U-17 soccer tournament
(in Cochabama, Bolivia)

April 24: Peru 2 Ecuador 1, Venezuela 1 Bolivia 0.
April 26: Colombia 1 Ecuador 1, Bolivia 3 Peru 0.
April 28: Colombia 1 Venezuela 0, Bolivia 2 Ecuador 1.
April 30: Colombia 3 Peru 0, Venezuela 3 Ecuador 2.
May 2: Venezuela 2 Peru 2, Bolivia 2 Colombia 1.
Final standings: 1. Bolivia 7 pts, 2. Colombia 5 *(on goals)*, 3. Venezuela 5, 4. Peru 3, 5. Ecuador 1.

1993 LIBERTADORES CUP

FIRST ROUND
GROUP A
(Peru-Venezuela)

07.02.93 Minerven (V) v Caracas (V) 1-0
10.02.93 Sp. Cristal (P) v Universitatrio (P) 1-3
16.02.93 Sporting Cristal v Caracas 0-1
19.02.93 Universitario v Caracas 4-1
02.03.93 Sporting Cristal v Minerven 6-2
05.03.93 Universitario v Minerven 2-0
10.03.93 Caracas v Minerven 1-1
10.03.93 Universitario v Sporting Cristal 2-2
16.03.93 Caracas v Sporting Cristal 1-3
19.03.93 Minerven v Sporting Cristal 0-1
23.03.93 Minerven v Universitario 2-2
26.03.93 Caracas v Universitario 1-1
Play-off for third place
31.03.93 Minerven v Caracas 1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
UNIVERSITARIO	6	3	3	0	14	7	9
SPORTING CRISTAL	6	3	1	2	13	9	7
MINERVEN	6	1	2	3	6	12	4
Caracas	6	1	2	3	5	10	4

GROUP B
(Bolivia-Chile)

24.02.93 Cobreloa (Chi) v U. Catolica (Chi) ... 1-1
25.02.93 Bolivar (Bol) v San Jose (Bol) 3-1
02.03.93 Bolivar v Univ. Catolica 3-1
05.03.93 San Jose v Univ. Catolica 2-5
09.03.93 Bolivar v Cobreloa 3-0
12.03.93 San Jose v Cobreloa 2-3
17.03.93 San Jose v Bolivar 1-0
17.03.93 Univ. Catolica v Cobreloa 1-1
23.03.93 Cobreloa v San Jose 2-1
26.03.93 Univ. Catolica v San Jose 4-1
30.03.93 Cobreloa v Bolivar 1-1
02.04.93 Univ. Catolica v Bolivar 3-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
UNIV. CATOLICA	6	3	2	1	15	8	8
BOLIVAR	6	3	1	2	10	7	7
COBRELOA	6	2	3	1	8	9	7
San Jose	6	1	0	5	8	17	2

GROUP C
(Uruguay-Ecuador)

17.02.93 Nacional (Ecu) v Barcelona (Ecu) ... 1-0
17.02.93 Nacional (Uru) v Bella Vista (Uru) ... 2-2
23.02.93 Barcelona v Bella Vista 2-0
26.02.93 Nacional v Bella Vista 5-0
02.03.93 Barcelona v Nacional (Uru) 1-1
05.03.93 Nacional v Nacional (Uru) 2-0
10.03.93 Barcelona v Nacional 4-0
10.03.93 Bella Vista v Nacional (Uru) 0-1
16.03.93 Bella Vista v Barcelona 2-1
19.03.93 Nacional (Uru) v Barcelona 3-0
23.03.93 Bella Vista v Nacional 2-0
26.03.93 Nacional (Uru) v Nacional 5-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NACIONAL (Uru)	6	3	2	1	12	6	8
NACIONAL (Ecu)	6	3	0	3	9	11	6
BARCELONA	6	2	1	3	8	7	5
Bella Vista	6	2	1	3	6	11	5

GROUP D
(Brazil-Colombia)

10.02.93 Inter (Bra) v Flamengo (Bra) 0-0
11.02.93 America (Col) v Nacional (Col) 0-3
16.02.93 America v Flamengo 2-1
19.02.93 Nacional v Flamengo 0-1
02.03.93 Flamengo v America 1-3
05.03.93 Inter v America 1-1
10.03.93 Flamengo v Inter 3-1
11.03.93 Nacional v America 3-2
16.03.93 Inter v Nacional 0-1
19.03.93 Flamengo v Nacional 3-1
23.03.93 America v Inter 4-2
26.03.93 Nacional v Inter 0-0
Play-off for second place
02.04.93 Nacional v America 2-4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FLAMENGO	6	3	1	2	9	7	7
AMERICA	6	3	1	2	12	11	7
NACIONAL	6	3	1	2	8	6	7
Inter	6	0	3	3	4	9	3

GROUP E
(Argentina-Paraguay)

05.02.93 Cerro Porteno (P) v Olimpia (P) 0-0
07.02.93 River Plate (A) v Newell's OB (A) 0-1
12.02.93 Cerro Porteno v Newell's OB 0-0
16.02.93 Olimpia v Newell's OB 1-1
23.02.93 Cerro Porteno v River Plate 2-1
26.02.93 Olimpia v River Plate 1-1
10.03.93 Newell's OB v River Plate 0-0
10.03.93 Olimpia v Cerro Porteno 1-0
16.03.93 River Plate v Cerro Porteno 1-1
19.03.93 Newell's OB v Cerro Porteno 1-2
23.03.93 Newell's OB v Olimpia 1-1
26.03.93 River Plate v Olimpia 1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CERRO PORTENO	6	2	3	1	5	4	7
NEWELL'S OB	6	1	4	1	4	4	6
OLIMPIA	6	1	4	1	4	4	6
River Plate	6	1	3	2	4	5	5

Newell's took 2nd place on flip of a coin

SECOND ROUND
First Leg
Wednesday, April 7

Series A Universitario v Barcelona 2-1
Series B Univ. Catolica v Nacional (Col) 2-0
Series C Nacional (Uru) v Olimpia 1-2
Series D Flamengo v Minerven 8-2
Series E Cerro Porteno v Cobreloa 1-1
Series F Nacional (Ecu) v Sporting Cristal 3-0
Series G America v Bolivar 2-1
Series H Newell's OB v Sao Paulo (Bra) 2-0

Second Leg
Wednesday, April 14

Series A Barcelona v Universitario 3-0
Barcelona won 4-0 on agg
Series B Nacional (Col) v Univ. Catolica 2-1
Univ. Catloica won 3-2 on agg
Series C Olimpia v Nacional (Uru) 3-0
Olimpia won 5-1 on agg
Series D Minerven v Flamengo 0-1
Flamengo won 9-2 on agg
Series E Cobreloa v Cerro Porteno 0-2
Cerro Porteno won 3-1 on agg
Series F Sporting Cristal v Nacional (Ecu) 4-0
Sporting won 4-3 on agg
Series G Bolivar v America 1-1
America won 3-2 on agg
Series H Sao Paulo (Bra) v Newell's OB 4-0
Sao Paulo won 4-2 on agg

QUARTER-FINALS
First Leg
Wednesday April 21

Series I Flamengo v Sao Paulo 1-1
Series II Olimpia v Cerro Porteno 1-1
Series III Univ. Catolica v Barcelona 3-1
Series IV America v Sporting Cristal 2-2

Second Leg
Wednesday April 28

Series I Sao Paulo v Flamengo 2-0
Sao Paulo won 3-2 on agg
Series II Cerro Porteno v Olimpia 0-0
Agg: 1-1, Cerro won 4-2 on pens
Series III Barcelona v Univ. Catolica 0-1
Univ. Catolica won 4-1 on agg
Series IV Sporting Cristal v America 2-3
America won 5-4 on agg

SEMI-FINALS
First Leg

05.05.93 Sao Paulo v Cerro Porteno 1-0
05.05.93 Unov. Catolica v America 1-0

Second Leg

Wednesday May 12

12.05.93 Cerro Porteno v Sao Paulo 0-0
Sao Paulo won 1-0 on agg

12.05.93 America v Univ. Catolica 2-2
Univ Catolica won 3-2 on agg

FINAL

First Leg
19.05.93 Sao Paulo v Univ. Catolica 5-1

Second Leg
26.05.93 Univ. Catolica v Sao Paulo 2-0
Sao Paulo won 5-3 on agg

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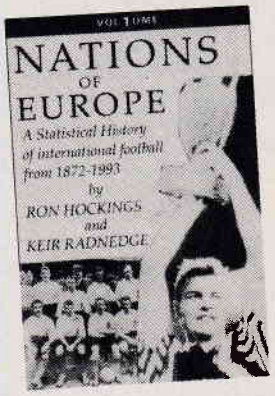
SUPPORTED BY
WORLD SOCCER

NATIONS OF EUROPE

by R. Hockings and Keir Radnedge



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BRIAN GLANVILLE'S LAST WORD

A moral improvement

O'Neill sets a good example

MORALLY, things may even be getting better. Our soccer managers at last seem to be coming round to the fact that a contract is a contract, that you don't walk straight out of a job as soon as some other club offers you something better.

Martin O'Neill, first. An astonishing study in loyalty. He was everybody's favourite for the Nottingham Forest job vacated by Brian Clough. He is intelligent, with a university degree, educated far above the level of your average grammar-maltreating manager.

O'Neill had done a splendid job at Wycombe Wanderers, taking them up in triumph from whatever they now call the old Alliance League.

Moreover, he had played with flair and distinction for Forest. Yet when the call came, he decided to stay with Wycombe. Marvellous!

I wish all success, in the meantime, to Frank Clark, an admirable, honest, capable fellow, who well deserves the chance to bring Forest back into that top division where they surely belong.

Meanwhile, there's no way in which I am prepared to dance upon the metaphorical grave of Brian Clough.

Brushing aside the ridiculous snow job in one of our most popular papers, which asserted that if Clough ever had a drink, it was never more than a glass of sparkling mineral water — or a sherry? — it surely should be recognised that ANY manager who can last 18 years with a major club, let alone one who has won so many major trophies, is the rarest of rare birds.

Some time ago, when Andy Nelson was manager of Charlton Athletic, he said that no club manager these days could last more than a few years, before losing his command and influence over his players. But EIGHTEEN YEARS? Years in which a relatively small club from a relatively small city twice won the Champions' Cup? That's a kind of minor miracle.

If Clough stayed a couple of seasons too long, if he eventually lost that mystique, that almost magic influence, over his players at the last, what of it? He had, in the vernacular, done the business; in spades.

To allege that he ruled by fear is not the half of it. Yes, he was always something of a bully. Even O'Neill has admitted that he couldn't stand up to him. But it goes far beyond that. To rehabilitate Kenny Burns, to win the applause of such as Peter Shilton, Trevor Francis and Tony Woodcock, a manager must possess special qualities. Clough had them in abundance.

No, I don't think he could ever have made a successful England team manager, given the terms of the task; a kind of half sinecure, a sublime illustration of Parkinson's Law, in which work expands to fill the time allotted to it.

But as a part-time manager, which is surely all the job should be, yes, I believe he could have done it.

Clough in his Forest days was shrewd enough to see that a little of a manager goes a long way. So he kept away from the training field — where he spent long hours in his unhappy 44 days at Leeds.

One of these days someone will write a play or a novel about the extraordinary "marriage" between Clough and Peter Taylor.

A push-me-pull-you relationship rolled on through

Loyal . . . Wycombe manager Martin O'Neill (above) is staying with the Football League's newest members. Partners . . . Brian Clough and Peter Taylor (left) shared a rocky but prosperous relationship.

---

adidas & WORLD SOCCER

kick-off an exciting new era for coaches

SPORTSWEAR giants adidas and *WORLD SOCCER* are delighted to announce the formation of The Association of Football Coaches and Teachers — a new concept for the UK.

For some years now there has been a growing demand at all levels of football for such an organisation to be formed to act as a focal point for coaches and teachers of what Pele calls "the beautiful game".

The Association of Football Coaches and Teachers will act as a forum for new coaching ideas and teaching innovations to be presented, considered and utilised by coaches and teachers working in football at all levels. Many of the other footballing nations of the world have associations for coaches and teachers, but the United Kingdom, for some reason, has never established such a valuable organisation.

Heading up the team to establish, launch and programme the early events will be a panel of top football personalities including Bob Wilson, Gordon Strachan and Don Howe. While John Morton (Chairman of the Selection and Coaching Committee for the English Schools FA), Rob Littleford (Secretary of the Sheffield Coaches Association) and Graham Morgan (of **adidas**) have expertise at the grass-roots level of football that is equally impressive.

Former Arsenal keeper Bob Wilson, current Chairman of the London Football Coaches Association, says: "Our great game of football can only benefit from this exciting new Association. As a coach and qualified teacher myself, I realise just how important it is for teachers and coaches to see new material, compare their own work and learn from each other."

Don Howe comments: "When **adidas** and ***WORLD SOCCER*** support a football event you know it has credibility. I am going to lend my fullest support. Like many people fortunate enough to have earned a living out of the game, I am delighted to be able to put something back."

Gordon Strachan needs no introduction to people involved in football. One of Scotland's all-time great players, with 50 caps, is one of the most successful winners in football with medals from his successful career at Aberdeen, Manchester United and Leeds United. Gordon is at the stage of his career when coaching and management opportunities have to be considered and prepared for.

He says: "As a father of two footballing sons, I am particularly keen on observing their progress and development through schools and youth football. I have some very strong comments about grass-roots football at youth level and think the over-pressuring of youngsters by their managers needs to be ousted, with youngsters being encouraged to play at the game rather than just competing for results."

Peter Stewart, Managing Editor of ***WORLD SOCCER***: says: "This magazine is delighted to be involved with adidas in support of the Association of Football Coaches and Teachers. Many of our readers will welcome such an Association so that they can get involved with the top names in soccer in a practical way."

AIMS OF THE AFCT

1: To develop the membership of the Association and tailor events to suit specific requests of the members.
2: To focus on the development of skill and technique among young players.
3: To devise a programme that covers all aspects, topics and viewpoints of the coaching and teaching of football with no bias towards any specific direction or style of play.
4: To produce a coaching magazine for the membership that will act as a focal point for the Association and enable the "best practices" to be shared among its coach and teacher members.

● ***If you wish to know more about the Association contact Rob Littleford, Penmore House, Hasland Road, Hasland, Chesterfield, S41 OSJ . . . or see next month's issue, when WORLD SOCCER will spotlight this exciting new organisation.***

their days as managers at Hartlepools, Derby — where, according to Taylor, they were at one stage denied the keys of their cocktail cabinet — through Brighton, where they failed, to Forest.

Each was perpetually claiming he had been wrong-footed by the other. Yet each somehow needed the other and it's significant that Forest didn't really get off the ground until Taylor joined Clough from Brighton, where Clough had virtually demoralised the team.

Gerry Francis is another manager who is as good as his word, and his contract. Which puts him in somewhat of a dilemma. He is reluctant to sign for three years.

At Bristol Rovers, where he literally put his own money where his mouth was when it came to buying players, he never signed more than an annual contract. But when it came to the point this time, a one-year deal had its obvious drawbacks.

If results went wrong, as he pointed out, and he lost his job, it might well be that other clubs would not be rushing for his services.

His comments came soon after Liverpool had inexplicably confirmed Graeme Souness's contract, which had another three years to run. This after it had appeared to be public knowledge that the thing has turned rancid, that Souness had lost the love of fans and players, and there was nowhere to go but out. And after the Liverpool board had twice met, without giving him the expected, if frequently doom-laden, vote of confidence.

To say that Souness seemed to have come to end of the road is merely to echo what almost everyone but his loyal club chairman, David Moores, had been saying for weeks.

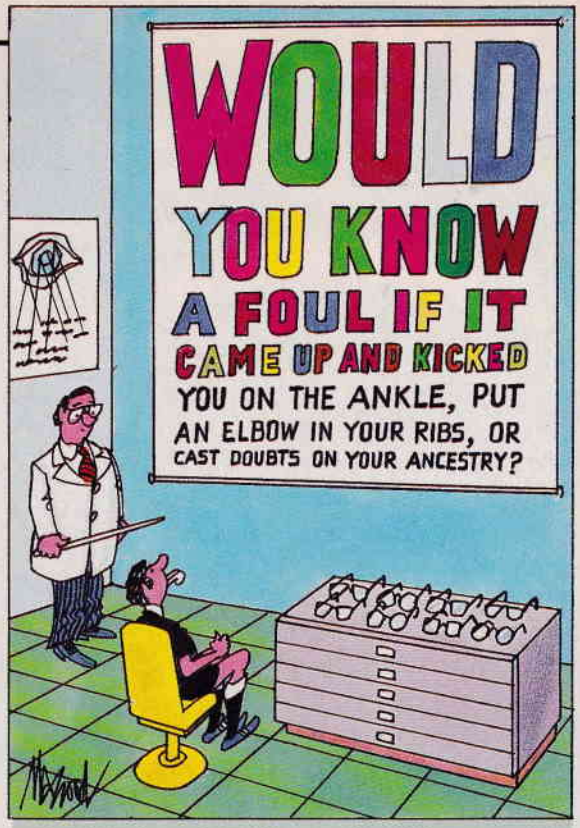
Results by and large had been shocking, he'd been suspended both by UEFA and FIFA, his transfer policy had been a disaster and some stars could not wait to get away.

Suddenly the smoke clears and Souness, we are told, for merely the loss of one director, stays: for the whole of his three unfulfilled years. This may be connected with the fact that Liverpool would have had to pay him, and allegedly had agreed to pay him, up to £1 million.

Money is not exactly flowing around Anfield these days, what with the £5 million development of the Kop, and the club's generous decision not to raise prices in that vibrant, talented but unlucky city.

Whether Souness can still turn the ship around must be open to the deepest doubt.

I would have thought it best in the circumstnaces for both parties to cut their losses, and start all over again. But miracles can happen. Or so we are told.



Worsening whistlers

REFEREEING seems to be getting worse and worse. No names, no pack drill, but wretched decisions proliferate.

Parma, in the first half of the Cup-winners' Final they so stylishly won against plodding Antwerp, were robbed of a goal when the Belgian defence, split for the umpteenth time, allowed Melli to run PAST his man and on to put the ball in the net. The linesman's flag went up, the referee gave offside.

At Selhurst Park a few days earlier, Eric Cantona, certainly the inspiration of Manchester United's Championship win, was jostled by a Wimbledon player. Not the sort of thing you do to Cantona with impunity.

Almost at once, he got the ball again and began provocatively juggling with it, right by the touchline and under the linesman's nose. Again he was jostled off the ball. He took a swinging kick at his opponent. Nothing happened to him.

At Portsmouth the previous day, the Pompey goalkeeper, Knight, took an inept and clumsy kick at a back-pass. The ball ran away from him, the Grimsby striker Daw closed in; and had his feet kicked from under him by the goalkeeper. Play on, said the ref. Not a ghost of a penalty.

In the second half Whittingham, Portsmouth's prolific scorer, used his pace to effect for the first time in the match, to leave Rodger, the Grimsby centre-back, standing. Not quite. Rodger stood right in his way, blocking his clear passage to goal. A direct free kick? A red card? A yellow card at least? No, not a bit of it. Just a free kick for obstruction.

A world of possibilities

THE eventual World Cup XI list of 40 possibles, issued by American Airlines, from which 20 players had to be selected, included all those I'd picked when helping to set up the enterprise.

But by my own standards, neither Ferenc Puskas nor Lev Yashin should have been included. Great players both, they didn't excel in the World Cup finals, Yashin letting in those two long-rangers against Chile in the 1962 World Cup, Puskas never recovering from that kick by Liebrich in 1954 but insisting on coming back for the Final. Still, his equaliser DID look onside. Though it was denied him.

NEXT MONTH IN...

WORLD SOCCER

Why Europe's top kids are heading for England

SPOTLIGHT:
Ulf **Kirsten** — the striker who came in from the cold

CLUB FOCUS:
Cobreloa of Chile
IFK Gothenburg

Title showdown in
SPAIN ... GERMANY ... FRANCE ... HOLLAND ... TURKEY ... PORTUGAL

AUGUST ISSUE OUT ON JULY 9

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